Minutes of the
Meeting of the Executive Committee
of the World Council of Churches
(22-28 May 2019)
Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, Switzerland

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5.6.7 Capital expenditure – approve the revised budget for capital expenditure 2019 at CHF 714,000. Approved by consensus. 63

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6. Ecumenical Trust (under US law) – amend item 7 on Actions without Meetings and add a new item 8 on Conference Calls and Video Participation to the By-laws of the Ecumenical Trust, as stated in Document 37. Approved by consensus. 64

7.2.2 Report of the General Secretary – invite moderators of the commissions to participate in executive committee meetings on a rotational basis, reporting to and discussing the work of the commissions with the executive committee, starting in November 2019. Approved by consensus. 64

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7.2.7 Central Committee Meeting 2020 Preparations and Agenda – recommends that preparations should continue based on the discussions and advice from the executive committee and that a further report on the work done be presented to the next meeting of the executive committee in November 2019. Approved by consensus. 65

7.2.8 Dates and Venues of Future Governing Bodies - approved by consensus. 65

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1. Spiritual Life

Morning prayer was convened in the chapel of the Ecumenical Institute in Bossey, Wednesday and Thursday (22-23 May) and Tuesday (28 May).

The readings for common prayer on Wednesday were Psalm 133, Leviticus 19: 1-2, 11-18, 33-34 and Luke 10:25-28. Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber (Evangelische Kirche in Deutschland) offered the reflection in which she reminded all that God's design is full of splendour, beauty and holiness. We are included in this divine holiness and thus empowered to perform godly acts.

The readings for common prayer on Thursday were Psalm 67, Philippians 2:1-11 and Matthew 15:21-28. Rev. Karl Johnson (Jamaica Baptist Union) offered the reflection. The woman described in Matthew spoke up and she spoke back. We must refuse to be silent when powers and principalities rise up against us. We must ever persevere in the quest for the justice intended by our God.

On Friday 24 May, executive committee members joined with the wider WCC community for prayer at the chapel of the Ecumenical Centre. The readings for the service were Psalm 93, James 2:1-13 and Luke 10:25-37. It was a service of prayers and remembrance for their departed sister and member of the executive committee, Rev. Robina Winbush (Presbyterian Church, USA), who died 12 March 2019, as well as for Rev. Norman Tendis (Evangelical Church of the Augsburg and Helvetic Confessions in Austria), a consultant for the Economy of Life programme of the World Council of Churches (WCC), who was killed in the Ethiopian Airlines crash on 10 March 2019. Rev. Dr Angelique Walker-Smith (National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.) offered a tribute to Rev. Robina Winbush. Professor Dr Isabel Apawo Phiri remembered Dr Tendis. Both were further memorialized in the sermon of Bishop Dr Mary Ann Swenson (United Methodist Church), vice-moderator of the central committee.

The readings for the prayer on Monday were Psalm 93, James 2:1-13 and Luke 10:25-37. The reflection was offered by the Rev. Dr Festus Ambe Asana (Presbyterian Church in Cameroon). He highlighted that, like Jesus, those who are bearers of liberating resources must also be enablers who overcome the obstacles that block the oppressed.

The readings for the prayer in the Orthodox tradition on Tuesday were Psalm 121, 2 Corinthians 5: 11-21, and John 13: 1-5, 12-17, 34-35. H.E. Metropolitan Serafim Kykotis (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa) offered the reflection. He highlighted that our love of Christ calls us in repentance, in order to live in reconciliation and unity.

2. Opening Actions

2.1. Welcome by Moderator

Dr Agnes Abuom (Anglican Church of Kenya), moderator of the central committee, moderated a hearing and decision session, which began with her words of welcome. The full text of her remarks follow.

Brothers and Sisters, welcome to the executive committee meeting. It is a joy to see each one of you. A lot has happened both positive and not so good, since we last met at the stop in our pilgrimage together in Uppsala Sweden; this stop for was a moment to learn and be exposed to the Swedish ecclesial landscape and we are grateful to the churches in Sweden for their support and solidarity.

Expectations: We come with many expectations and the desire to share our experiences in our churches, communities and countries. It is my hope that these will be realized formally and informally during our

time together here at Bossey. May I on behalf of the leadership express our gratitude to you executive committee members for taking your pilgrimage of serving the wider ecumenical movement seriously. Many of you left important tasks in your churches and work places not least the family to come to these meetings. Be assured that your commitment is not taken for granted. From the leadership we hope that we can continue to build and strengthen our community as we seek to fulfil the mandate bestowed upon us by the central committee. It is expected that during this meeting we shall:

- Revisit the ethos of consensus decision making process;
- Count on the members' active participation throughout the meeting;
- Strengthen community life – praying, sharing and discerning the will of God for our work together;
- Receive reports of programme work as part of our monitoring role; and
- Give guidance and make decisions.

Issues: I would like to lift up a few issues for our continued reflection and action

1. The **Just Community of Women and Men** - Gender justice…I shared at the last executive committee briefly on the state of gender violence against women, men, boys and girls which continues to be a global concern in so far as peace and security is concerned. While we have made gains regarding the role of women in church and community, some of the gains were being reversed e.g. ordained women face challenges in some churches. The Mar Thoma women celebrated their centenary in February, and I had a chance to join 100,000 women; these great servants of God continue to be the engine of evangelism, revival and renewal in the church.

2. The **Gender Justice Policy** is in place and many may ask why such a policy. Gender is a transversal in the WCC approach to programme. It cuts across the different programmes. As we build and strengthen just communities of women and men, the policy is an instrument to guide our work and it is a collation of past decisions. But we need to move beyond policy to lift up issues pertaining to gender justice and determine appropriate strategies and approaches to bring to the fore lessons learnt, ongoing challenges in churches and communities; as we seek to use the convening role of WCC to create space and momentum towards the assembly and beyond.

3. **The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child-CRC** (30 years). This year 2019 marks 30 years since UN member states ratified the Rights of the Child Convention. While many nation states ratified the convention, their accountability – reporting back has been on voluntary basis. It is also evident that some of the religious communities still have ongoing questions and doubts regarding aspects of the convention. The WCC Commitment to Child-friendly Churches programme in partnership with UNICEF on a pilot basis is a way to lift up the place of children in our communities and churches. Perhaps we need to establish how our governments and churches are performing in regard to the rights and place of children. Some of us attending CWME meeting in Finland, had a chance to worship at the Orthodox Church in Helsinki and in this church; there was space for children to participate. There was a place in the church where they could draw, children could walk around in an orderly manner. It was a reminder that we do not need extraordinary activities for children to participate and to be heard. The question is: how should we as WCC mark the 30 years of CRC if at all? In many places, children can be considered as the "margins" within church and community. Their presence is neither felt nor is their voice heard.

4. **Intersectionality of the WCC three pillars** – The identity and foundation of WCC rests on three pillars or African cooking stones. These are Faith and Order, Mission and Evangelism and Justice and Peace (Life and Work). Unfortunately, the history of these streams is characterized by a perception that one or the other stream is favoured at the expense of the others. We need to recall that the council has

come a long way in addressing such perceptions but unfortunately they persist. There was a time in the life of the WCC some programmes were so powerful and lived their own lives in silos. How can we ensure that the process started by the commission leadership attending each others' meetings and sharing information continues and respective areas of convergence between the three streams are highlighted as individual commissions make their valuable contributions to the wider ecumenical movement. There is a saying that: "*Never be a prisoner of your past. It was just a lesson, not a life sentence".* How can we overcome this in our work and interaction?

5. **Assembly Theme and preparation** – I have closely accompanied the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC); as we reflect and prepare for the assembly, we need to discern how we might bring to surface the pilgrimage of churches and communities towards overcoming institutionalization of negative ethnicity, xenophobia, hatred, racism. I am reminded of the campaign by the SSCC in 2018-2019 on "the Power to Forgive" stemming from the Power of Love.

6. **Eco-Justice** – "*Only when the last tree has died, and the last river has been poisoned and the last fish been caught will we realize we cannot eat money"* is a Cree Indian Proverb. The urgency of climate change is at the doorsteps of the church. During the launch of the road map, it became evident that churches and communities can become "green churches" by doing simple but important and life-changing actions as illustrated by the Church of South India. As WCC governing bodies we are called to live out our policy statements, for example integrating the Blue Community approach. Perhaps an area we need to revisit is travel. Let us walk the talk.

Dr Abuom concluded her opening remarks with a warm welcome to all the meeting participants.

2.2. Roll Call

The moderator invited WCC general secretary, Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit to read the roll call.

Dr Tveit thanked the moderators for this welcome with a reminder of the work before the committee. He joined them in welcoming everyone to the work of the executive committee and read the roll call. The full list of participants is in Appendix I.

Apologies were received from the following members of the committee:

- Rev. Cora Luisa Antonio Matamoros (Iglesia Morava en Nicaragua)
- H.E. Archbishop Dr Abune Aregawi (Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahedo Church)
- Rev. Dr Samson Olasupo Adeniyi Ayokunle (Nigerian Baptist Convention)
- Rev. Dr Paul Gardner (Moravian Church in Jamaica & the Cayman Islands)
- Bishop Rex R. B. Reyes, Jr. (Episcopal Church in the Philippines)
- Bishop John F. White (African Methodist Episcopal Church)

2.3. News from Member Churches

The moderator, Dr Abuom, expressed the grief of the entire executive committee and staff at the unexpected loss of Rev. Robina Winbush, member of the executive committee and Dr Norman Tendis. Those gathered shared a moment of silence in their memories. She then invited any members who so wished to briefly share news from their churches.

Rev. Dr Manhong Lin (China Christian Council [CCC]) reported that the CCC had its general assembly in November 2018 with a change of leadership. The president of the China Christian Council is Rev. Wu Wei and the chairperson of the National TSPM is Xu Xiaohong. Rev. Shen Xuebin who is a vice president of the CCC is in charge of overseas relations and should be addressed on any ecumenical matters.

The CCC looks forward to hosting the Commission on Faith and Order in June. The preparatory work is almost complete. Because of government restructuring, this required much more time and effort to ensure that participants get their visas. They are very honoured also to welcome the WCC general secretary to this event, and to have him visit Nanjing, Shanghai and probably Beijing.

She reminded the committee that the WCC staff needs to be well-informed about the One-China policy, which recognizes Taiwan as a part of the People's Republic of China. Taiwan should not be listed as an independent country in any documents. They also ask that the WCC take into account the One-China policy in the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle. It is important to pray for specific nations and peoples but before such prayers are published and put online, the related churches should be consulted about the texts so as to be more respectful of those for whom we pray.

H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste (Romanian Orthodox Church) announced that, his church, with its commitment of his church to ecumenism, will be welcoming the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church to Romania.

Rev. Dr Festus Ambe Asana expressed gratitude to the general secretary for his expression of concern and solidarity when the children were kidnapped in the Cameroon. The great news is that they are returned, but the English-speaking part of the country is suffering. He asked for prayers for the church and nation. Many are living in the forest, and many are dying there. This is a situation that has been brewing for 50 years and now is exploding. They are grateful that the UN is talking about their situation but talk needs to move into action.

Ms Emily Evans (Uniting Church in Australia) shared that the UCA has concluded a process of consensus that has established the church's approach to same-sex marriage. The church will provide a choice of marriage services, with a new rite to be written for "two persons" to marry. The church published "Our Vision for a Justice Australia" to speak to the electorate as they prepared for the federal election that was held last Saturday. The UCA will conduct a pilgrimage for justice and peace focused on reconciliation with Australia's indigenous peoples.

Rev. Karin van den Broeke (Protestant Church in the Netherlands) thanked the WCC staff who welcomed and oriented their new church leadership to the world-wide ecumenical family and the work of the WCC.

Rev. Dr Hyun Ju Bae (Presbyterian Church of Korea) thanked the general secretary for the message of support for the Human Peace Chain across the DMZ on 27 April. Her church is also thankful the WCC's ongoing advocacy to promote peace and reconciliation on the peninsula, especially through the Ecumenical Forum for Korea, chaired by the director of WCC-CCIA. The PCK will have a youth pilgrim team visit in August. A tentative date has been set in November for a women's pilgrim team visit.

Military confrontation between the USA and Democratic People's Republic of Korea is returning. The executive committee is urged to consider how the WCC can invite its member churches in nuclear nations to advocate for their governments to sign the Treaty on the Prevention of Nuclear Weapons. As churches we need to continue to communicate our theological understanding to form the public opinion for peace that supports the work of these peace organizations and initiatives.

Rev. Dr Angelique Walker-Smith expressed her profound regret that she was present due to the sudden death of Rev. Robina Winbush. She gave thanks for the many ways Robina had nurtured and inspired her. The NCCCUSA and Christian Churches Together will be convening this year on the theme of the *African American Quad-Centennial* (1619-2019). August 2019 will mark 400 years since the first documented arrival of Africans to English America and the origin of the policy of enslavement in the North American context. This is an important moment for the people of African descent in the USA.

The annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days national gathering was held in April in Washington, DC. The focus was on voter suppression, which is disproportionally discriminatory towards people of colour. They also lobbied for the Global Fragility Act before the US Congress. If passed, the act would require the US government in collaboration with global civil society to develop a 10-year strategy to reduce current levels of global violence, especially since violent conflict undermines human rights and dignity.

Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber reported that the EKD is joining with other European churches to advocate for fair elections for the European parliamentary elections this coming weekend. They also are speaking out against xenophobia and racism in our societies and continent. The EKD has an initiative titled *Equal and Free*, which is garnering strong participation from our congregations.

2.4. Approval of Agenda

It was proposed that the finance report, scheduled for the afternoon of the first day, be switched with the report on governance, scheduled for the afternoon of the second day, due to late arrival of Bishop Dr Mary Ann Swenson.

With this change, the agenda was approved by consensus.

2.5. Approval of Minutes

Members agreed that they had not had enough time to review the draft minutes of the previous meeting. Therefore, the approval of the minutes was moved to the final session of the current meeting.

At the closing session, members contributed corrections of grammar, spelling and document titles. Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Antioch and All the East) noted that it was the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) that was in the process of obtaining a letter from the assembly of bishops of the Orthodox Church in America (OCA). H.E. Metropolitan Serafim Kykotis (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa) corrected the minuting of his intervention under the section on nominations, clarifying that he had urged that when a member of a commission dies, the member should be replaced by someone from the same church. A footnote was added under nominations to link the action taken at this meeting to rectify the error inadvertently taken in Uppsala appointing the same person to both the Audit and Finance committees.

The minutes, with these changes, were approved by consensus.

2.6. Approval of Sub-Committees (Membership)

The general secretary presented the proposed membership for this meeting's sub-committees.

Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul pointed out that a member of the finance committee also serves on the audit committee. She noted that members of the finance sub-committee may not also serve on that audit committee and suggested that an alternative be appointed to either committee to resolve the perception of conflict.

The membership of the sub-committees was approved by consensus with the provision noted above (see Appendix II).

2.7. Consensus Refresher

The moderator, Dr Aboum, asked Mrs Glynn-Mackoul and Ms Evans to present a refresher about the consensus decision-taking process used by the WCC. They explained that Uniting Church in Australia was

a pioneer in the use of consensus process for decision making. Consensus invites participants to listen to one another. It is inspired by the theological understanding of how the WCC does its work. We seek to act in humility in response to the will of the Spirit. Consensus is: a prayerful process that seeks to discern God's will; seeking agreement on the best way forward on an issue; decision making without voting; a process of genuine dialogue; and being respectful, mutually supportive and empowering.

Consensus does not mean everyone is always in unanimity, therefore sometimes indicator cards are used. Each participant has two cards in orange and blue. Orange means 'I agree, I feel warm to this idea'. Blue means 'I feel uncomfortable, I need more information, I feel cool to this idea'. These expressions enable the moderator to gauge the feeling of the room. The role of the moderator is to assist the meeting to be open to the will of God; to encourage the meeting to move towards a common mind; and see that the needs of the WCC are met.

If a participant is in firm disagreement with the emerging decision, s/he may ask for the objection to be noted in the minutes and then step aside. If s/he feel it is impossible to step aside because the emerging decision goes against the understanding of the church, the moderator will convene a small group to learn more about this situation. The moderator has several tools to use in this situation: a moment of silence; a break and returning later to the topic; or asking people of clearly different views on the subject to work through the topic together and report back to the plenary. If a consensus cannot be achieved by any of these, it is possible for the body to decide to vote. This must be decided by at least 85% of the members. While this option exists in the procedural rules of our body, it has never been used.

Members of the executive committee were urged to:

- Be familiar with central committee papers and issues
- Prepare themselves to contribute their wisdom and experience to these discussions
- Be open to the guidance of the Holy Spirit
- Listen for insights from others
- Be eager to find creative modifications which build on the insights of others
- Be ready to discern when consensus has been achieved and
- Prepare themselves to explain WCC decisions back home.

The moderator thanked Mrs Glynn-Mackoul and Ms Evans and opened the discussion to the participants.

H.E. Metropolitan Serafim Kykotis asserted that consensus has limits – we must recognize that we might meet consensus here, but this will not be consistent with the views that emerge at the succeeding assembly. He believed this dynamic undergirded some of the tensions that rippled through the Uppsala meeting of the executive committee.

Mrs Glynn-Mackoul responded that recommendations come from the ancillary committees to the central committee but are not imposed on them. The ownership of these decisions lies with the central committee. If the central committee cannot come to consensus, the decision may be brought to the executive committee for final determination.

H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste affirmed that the consensus process is recognized by many as a good advancement. But many conflate consensus and unanimity. He urged the WCC to be clear in educating everyone about this difference so that people can understand that consensus decision-taking allows space for some members to not agree with the ultimate decision. Mutual respect allows for some who disagree with the general sense of the room to step aside.

Rev. Dr Angelique Walker-Smith expressed appreciation for how the WCC has matured in decision-taking. She recalled when it moved from parliamentary procedure to consensus at the Harare Assembly. This

journey has been an uncomfortable process, but grace has prevailed because we have decided for unity, we have decided that we are one. It does not exist in a vacuum. It has promise because we pray together; because we make the effort to love one another. We remember that we are the churches, we are the Body of Christ. We respond to the Spirit. We respond to the reality that we respond to something bigger than ourselves. The spirit of consensus is at the core of this approach.

Dr Asana affirmed that consensus does not mean that we are bound to accept something with which we strongly disagree. It allows that someone can strongly disagree and can have that perspective recorded without stopping the sense of the whole.

Ms Evans noted that there some challenges had been encountered when using electronic consensus-taking. There should be further discussion about how to use this tool.

3. Report of the General Secretary

H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima (Ecumenical Patriarchate), vice-moderator of the central committee, moderated the hearing session. He invited the general secretary to present his report.

3.1. General Secretary's Report

The general secretary, Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, thanked the moderator and moved on to present his report as follows.

Reporting and rejoicing

Reporting on work that is already done can sometimes be quite a job, or even a burden. It arrives on top of the necessary and daily demands of focusing on the work to be done now and directed to the future. This first executive committee meeting each year is a moment of reporting from the year behind us. What have we done? How have we fulfilled our tasks? How did we meet our objectives? How have we stewarded our time and financial resources?

You already have and will receive several reports in this meeting. The annual review of 2018 was published last week, for example. There we have, in an attractive format, been offered an overview of a remarkable year. We marked the 70th anniversary and held several great events, in addition to everything else we did together as staff. Most of our work we also did with the churches and our partners, in Geneva, in Bossey, and around the world. This made the year busier than others, something we cannot do every year. We had to work hard to not have a deficit in our programme finances. We also had to face two deaths in our staff community. And we had to address new challenges and opportunities for our work for peace in the world.

In all this I see a very committed staff, and reports from their work should encourage you as governing bodies as well. In so much of this work, many of you have been actively participating yourselves. We have discovered new dimensions in how we are a fellowship of churches, and how the churches want to participate in and own the work of the WCC. We also see how God has blessed the work of the WCC over many years. It has been a blessing that has made us able to be courageous, to be focused, to be generous, and to be faithful to our great calling, in difficulties, in distractions from outside and inside the organization, in addressing new challenges while still encountering inspiring, shared experiences. We have also experienced how "working, praying and walking together" is not only a theme and objective, but a reality. The WCC has a convening role in the one ecumenical movement. We also see how the WCC is a fellowship of solidarity and care for those who are struggling and facing crises, conflicts, even tragedies and disasters.

For all these reasons, and many more, it is not only a duty to report on 2018 and the time since we met in November 2018 in Uppsala, Sweden. It also an opportunity to rejoice. “Turn to God, rejoice in hope” was the theme of one of our assemblies (Harare, 1998). This is what we also do now.

I will, as usual, report to you on the visits, meetings and events I have been involved in as general secretary the last months. I hope you are reading the daily and weekly news from the WCC. This is an important source to be updated on the work of the WCC. This can be discussed more in detail as you find it relevant now. I also give you an update on the great project Green Village, which the governing bodies of the WCC have decided should be pursued to secure the financial sustainability of the WCC for the future, as well as to ensure a proper working place for us in Geneva. In addition to that, I will focus on some dimensions of our work that (among all the other dimensions of our extensive work) should have our attention and deeper analysis and reflection.

On our way to the 11th Assembly

The journey toward the 11th Assembly of the WCC, in Karlsruhe, Germany, in September 2021 has begun already, in fact a long time ago. It will form an important part of our agenda in this meeting, as well. To prepare the event properly, much has been accomplished since we met last November in Uppsala. More will be done now, here together, and even more following our meeting.

Since we met in November, the Assembly Planning Committee (APC) has met under the experienced leadership of HE Metropolitan Gennadios. The report from their meeting in Cyprus in January is presented to you, and it contains a richness of reflection and proposals for the assembly and the way leading to it.

There has also been an opportunity for the moderator of the APC and myself to meet in February this year with the hosting church and community in Karlsruhe, together with Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber from EKD and our colleagues now assigned to the assembly office: Beate Fagerli, Marc-Henri Heiniger and Alexandra Pomezny. This meeting affirmed the commitment to contribute to the process, from the church in Baden and the city of Karlsruhe, as well as from EKD and other churches in Germany. The visit also gave us important information about the venue. We will hear more about the progress in the planning and coordination of the work we are now doing together with the hosts, and how some of the challenges are being addressed.

Now it is time to involve the churches and our ecumenical partners in many aspects of the preparations for the assembly. As you requested, I am about to send letters to all our member churches to start their process of nominating delegates to the assembly – comprising 80 percent of the places - and to propose names for the central committee’s appointment of the remaining 20 percent of the seats. This was done in line with the procedures from the last assemblies, adjusted to the numbers of delegates you finally determined in Uppsala. This letter, with the relevant information to the churches about our rules for participation in the assembly, as well as about expectations of shared responsibilities among member churches to show commitment to the WCC and its assembly, was also discussed with the leadership of the central committee.

Since we met, the central committee has approved through electronic vote the proposed formulation of the theme: “Christ’s love moves the world to reconciliation and unity.” I have had some opportunities to reflect on and discuss the theme in public, as well as with colleagues, in a first draft of a concept paper. In this meeting we will reflect more on the content of the theme and where it will lead the WCC. It is important to facilitate a wide and comprehensive process of reflection on what this theme can help us to

see as the mission of the WCC in this time. We hope and pray that we see this more clearly as we move forward not only to this assembly but as the World Council of Churches and one ecumenical movement into the years ahead of us.

Let me share a few perspectives at this point:

1. There is a lot of support and understanding for bringing the concept of love into a theme of a WCC assembly. There is some surprise that it did not happen earlier. The theme leads us to the roots of our faith, responding to the gospel of God's love through Jesus Christ, in his life, death and resurrection. This is also the basis for the WCC, and many are supporting that we get focus on the content of what is common in our Christian faith and hope: love. The theology of love through the history of the Christian churches provides a richness of reflection, but also clear challenges to us. What does it mean in our ecumenical fellowship today, and how are we moved as churches and followers of Christ today sharing this love in a way that contributes to transformation of the world? It is not a theme that leads us to a superficial or easy message for our churches, but a significant challenge for all churches: How does Christ's love make us the witnesses and agents of love, and signs of the coming reign of God? The connection to the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace is given in how love is the motivation and the inspiration to move toward justice and peace, but also how love is the content of our vision for a world ruled by justice and peace. True love is shown in its actions, in care for the other, and in care for the whole of humanity and God's creation. The 1948 Amsterdam assembly clearly said that Christ's love compels us to say clearly both yes and no: To promote reconciliation and unity as we combat injustice, racism and war.

2. The verb *moves* expresses the WCC as a movement. It also has as strong connection to the role of the Holy Spirit as the mover of all life, including the life we share as churches in and with the world God loves. We need to be moved, we can be moved, and we are moved by Christ's love. This is the work of the Holy Spirit. When we in this theme express our hope, our prayers for the world, we also express our willingness to contribute to transformation toward reconciliation and unity.

3. This theme is seen by some as an expression of a triumphalist attitude associated with the colonization of the world by the West and the type of mission exercised through that approach to "the world." If so, it becomes even more important to develop further what it means to focus on Christ's love, as an expression of the love of the one who emptied himself of glory or status, even accepting the destiny of death on the cross as a response to his mission and ministry for reconciliation and salvation. Following Christ can never be appropriately expressed in arrogance, triumphalism, superiority or exclusion of the other. The focus we have had on pilgrimage is an expression of our ecumenical attitude of openness for one another, for change, for being together on the way, for searching together for the way forward. This corresponds to the theme, focusing on finding and expressing the signs of Christ's love, and doing so in such a way that the world can be moved by his love. Moving toward the fellowship of peace, reconciliation, with justice, we seek the unity for which God has created us, for which Christ prayed, and of which the world stands so strongly need in our time.

Pilgrimage as our shared motif

Reporting from the work of the WCC in 2018 shows how the strategic objectives of the WCC are pursued and how we use the call from the 10th Assembly in Busan to hold together the many dimensions of our work in "being together on a pilgrimage of justice and peace." This was motif was further elaborated in the motto for our 70th anniversary, and in the theme "walking, praying and working together." The

pilgrimage approach has proved relevant in shaping all our work, in both how we do it and what we do. We see also how this notion inspires other partners in the one ecumenical movement to see our one ecumenical movement in the light of the traditions, motifs and actions of pilgrimage. This was also the theme for the visit we had from Pope Francis last year.

The programme work in the WCC has been pursued according to the plans for 2018. In addition to that, several events were organized by us and many by our churches and partners to mark the anniversary of the 70 years of the WCC. Together this meant that our colleagues, and you as members of the governing bodies, were involved in a lot of activities and hard work. We managed to do all this with the enormous commitment by many to the WCC and our mission, but also with significant sacrifices by many. This should be honoured and appreciated, and we thank God for the ministry given to us and the opportunity to serve as ecumenical pilgrims in our time.

The experiences of being together on a pilgrimage of justice and peace are presented and accumulated in stories and reports. But we also have received significant theological reflections in documents like the newly published one from Faith and Order, entitled *Come and See.*

In the reports from the reference group on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and the theological study group connected to it, we have been reminded that the methodology of pilgrimage— celebrating the gifts, visiting the wounds, and contributing to transformation— is applicable to all dimensions of our lives within the one ecumenical movement. Furthermore, their report points in a direction of some common themes to be addressed in our search for justice and peace. They are already addressed in several of our WCC programmes, and should be further pursued through the advocacy work and initiatives we undertake together in our ambitious and significant programmes.

The focus on the pilgrimage must not lead to expanding activities, travels, and visits in a way that cannot correspond to a realistic assessment of what we can follow up on in our ordinary work. We must avoid having the WCC doing what belongs to the mandate of partners like ACT Alliance, in analyzing and addressing humanitarian needs. We must also avoid having the WCC be accused of promoting a kind of ecumenical or humanitarian tourism.

The wide range of visits made to the Asian region this year has provided important and encouraging moments for many who have the impression that they are not seen, that they are forgotten by the world community, even the church families. The visits have also occasioned many significant insights and become signs of accompaniment to people and churches who struggle for justice and peace.

As we make plans for 2020, and focus on the Pacific region, we should also reflect properly on the dimensions of the activities and the costs and carbon footprint of our activities.

Whatever we do as the WCC, we have to see it as part of the whole involvement of all that we do. The Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace is an overall perspective on what to do and how to do it. When we do something concretely as a visit to a certain area, for example, it must build on what we have done before, and it must be part of a plan consonant with our resources and with dimensions of work that can lead to relevant and reliable follow-up.

In this perspective I want to draw our attention to and initiate a conversation in this meeting about how we as WCC should and could address the growing racism in the world—and even in the churches and religious communities.

The focus on racism in 2019 – and beyond

We should also discuss as we look back to the work of last year and continue developing plans and budgets for the next year, where the signs of the times help us to where to prioritize something more than before. Racism, the theme of 2019, has been identified as a growing concern in many parts of the world. It is also an indicator of many other growing problems in the world, related to neo-populism, fascism and exclusivity. These tendencies are in a postmodern period leading many to focus on their own problems, needs and interests without caring for the need for joint solutions, for the wholeness of the world and for our common and shared interests. The many visits to different countries and partners in Asia this year also have a focus on racism and how it plays a role in the conflicts and the challenges some minority groups are facing.

In the annual Ecumenical Strategic Forum, with many of our main funding partners as well as with other ecumenical partners, held here in Bossey in May, we pursued that same focus on racism in relation to minorities, populism, etc. Some of the relevant partners from the UN was also involved. We learned more about the Programme to Combat Racism, a flagship in the past for the WCC. Baldwin Sjollema and Frank Chikane reflected on the significance of racism and how the lessons learned then could be brought forward in how we address it today.

Yet racism is more than a historical lesson or an anthropological puzzle. It is a persistent, daily, ugly, death-dealing streak in societies on every continent, one that robs the future prospects of tens of millions of people. Where lies our present accountability here, today?

In the last several years, through collaboration with our ecumenical partners and member churches, and as a special focus in our Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, we have dedicated considerable resources to understanding and responding to racism in regions around the world, from North America to India, from Eastern Europe to Latin America. This more intense, recent focus on race grew out of the 2016 Solidarity Visit to the US, organized after race-related events in Charleston and Ferguson and elsewhere shocked us all.

We have also joined forces with the United Nations agencies and their efforts, including those of the Human Rights Council and the International Decade for Peoples of African Descent, to understand and highlight particular cases. Through Pilgrim Team Visits, we have offered solidarity and accompaniment to those individuals, churches, and communities victimized by racial injustice and its effects. And we have lent support to regional initiatives, such as the National Council of Churches in the USA's "ACT Now to End Racism" and the newly revived Poor People's Campaign.

The Rome Conference on Xenophobia, Racism, and Populist Nationalism in the Context of Global Migration (September 2018) is one of the many initiatives resulting from the ecumenical endeavour to challenge racism. This was organized in close collaboration with the Vatican's Discastery for Promoting Integral Human Development.

After the success of this event, we are making plans with the Dicastery for a new world Conference on "Identities under Threat: [Tackling] Discrimination against National, Ethnic, Cultural, Religious and Linguistic Minorities" in Geneva, 13-14 November 2019.

At this juncture, we must ask: How does one get at the multiple levels and layers of systemic racism? What more can we do, as churches and agencies, strategically and programmatically, together? Where can we

best focus, how might we make a distinctive, decisive, transformative difference in combating racism today? How do we steer the human heart toward reconciliation?

The theme of the assembly will help us address racism. One of the features of Christ's love is that it does not accept the boundaries of so called race and ethnicity. In Christ there is another vision for our one humanity, nurtured in the examples of Jesus' praxis and of the theology of Christ's love to the whole world.

In the discussion last week, I particularly noticed that one of the most important and controversial issues related to the PCR, was where the focus should be. There were voices arguing that it should be a general approach to human justice in many different contexts. To make a difference somewhere, the focus on Apartheid was chosen. Also because it particularly related to how the Christian faith was misused to legitimize racism. I do not think we can focus only on one country in our approach now. There is also in our time a certain need to focus on white supremacy and racism, now as then, and to pay proper attention to the peoples of African descent and the underlying history of slavery.

But we see this reality of racism in many countries and continents. Particularly we see the effect of this "original sin" in Europe again, as it was before and during World War II. And we also see that racism is as brutal a reality when ethnic groups other than those of European origin are dominating.

I would propose that we reflect particularly on how to focus on something where we as churches have a special responsibility in addressing and preventing racism from becoming a more dominant force in our time. In our globalized situation, it is not possible to have a geographical limitation, as in the 1970s.

It is important to see how we can work with other partners, particularly international organizations like those related to the UN. This fight against racism is one of the core issues in the new world order and new international multilateral cooperation envisioned after the disasters of the world wars in the 20th century.

We also see that religion, even sometimes our Christian faith, is directly or indirectly misused to legitimize different forms of racism, often also combined with nationalism. It is also a challenge in other religious traditions, and therefore a significant issue in our dialogues with other faith communities. It has been raised in our dialogues with some of them. In the next meeting with our Jewish partners, it will be raised again.

Therefore, my proposal, for our consideration, is that we start to build a new programme to combat racism, and to focus particularly on how the churches should be able to address race and racism in their own contexts and internationally as part of our joint advocacy work.
There are questions and challenges we need to be aware of, if and when the WCC develops its focus on racism further into a programme. One is intersectionality, that is, that racism is rarely, if ever, just a matter of exclusion and discrimination only from one perspective or argument. It is most often a mix, some obvious and apparent, some underlying but still very influential. For example, white supremacy is racist, combined with economic and political interests, national or tribal interests, driven by some kind of ideological arguments. Sometimes, and actually increasingly often in our time, there is a connection to or affinity with religion. This could be one of the focal points in further initiatives, where the particular added value of the involvement of the WCC could make a difference. Religion can be used directly or indirectly as a motivation for exclusivism, discrimination and persecution. Religious affiliation can be used as a marker for excluding somebody.

We always have to be aware of fairness and equal treatment, the dignity of each person and their background. But we have to avoid that the real fight against racism is undermined because of improper or undocumented use of the term *racism* or *racist.* This is also the case when and if the WCC makes public statements about racism against certain persons or groups.

"Race" is a construction, genetically and biologically. Still it plays a significant role in many, if not most, contexts where people of different origin live together or try to avoid doing so. Differences in ethnic background, culture, language, religion, and so on, are often defined as differences of "race." We have seen what that can lead to in terms of catastrophes. The reality of racism is destructive and brutal in many contexts, and it has to be dismantled and addressed as such.

Another important question in our reflection on why and how to focus on racism is the fact that the revitalization of racism comes as disrespect for human rights and their universality grows in many countries. The 70 years of the WCC is the same historical timeframe as the life of the international conventions on human rights. We have a particular responsibility as the WCC to see how we can work for the respect of human rights, individual and social rights, directly and indirectly through, for example, pursuing initiatives for just peace that can lead to better respect for the dignity and rights of every human being.

The future: the churches' commitment to children

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). Children are in a special way embraced by Christ' love, as we know from the gospels. Children are also particularly gifted in expressing the human need for fellowship and unity. Children are also in a special way on the move toward transformation and toward the future. Every day they are developing new skills and learn something new. They show the human need to move, and to move into a future with hope. They are also more vulnerable to violence, and they have to carry some of the heaviest burdens of human conflicts. They need a reconciled world. They should have in a particular way the right to hope.

Most of the life of children is – hopefully – ahead of them. In a world of conflict, and of threatening signs for the environment in which we all have to live together as one humanity, children need for us who are in the generations of their parents or grandparents to show another level of responsibility for their future. Some of the children and youth of today have boldly become prophetic voices, asking that we should not bear false hopes but actually make the necessary changes to care for God's creation now. Now is the time to act, and the world needs to listen to young people like the Swedish schoolgirl and climate activist Gretha Thunberg. Because they are telling us the truth.

When I baptized my grandson Christian Fredrik a few days ago, I was reminded how the terminology of being "in Christ" resembles the image of a family and clan. We become part of the family tree of Jesus, the "kingdom" of God. The legacy from Jesus is of a fellowship in which we are embraced by God's love, called to show the love of Christ to our sisters and brothers. We are not only born into our small family; we are born into the one humanity. In baptism we are born again into the family of the church. This larger family is called to be a sign of reconciled and united humanity. What kind of world are we offering them to live in? How have we stewarded this common home for them? It is time to see our responsibilities in the light of the image of being a family, one human family.

Yesterday we launched a document "Education for Peace in a Multi-Religious World: A Christian Perspective." We did so together with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. This is a shared concern and commitment for us in the one ecumenical movement. Children and youth must be

empowered through education and participation in building relations of just peace for the future. I am sure it is not only children and youth who have a lot to learn about that. Children might even be those who have something to teach their parents and their parents' generation.

In these perspectives I find it particularly relevant that we as a fellowship of churches are moving together in our joint programme, the Churches' Commitment to Children. We have also seen and heard that many member churches responded positively to our invitation in March 2017, in which I invited our fellowship to reflect on the "Churches' Commitments to Children" document and to undertake joint efforts for and with children in the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace.

A network of over 400 member church representatives and partners are now collaborating around the action plan proposed in the "Churches' Commitments to Children," using their influence to advance the three main objectives of our programme: to promote child protection, child/adolescent participation, and climate justice initiatives for and with children. This is very encouraging, and even more can be achieved with our partners on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the CRC.

Child rights and our Churches' Commitments to Children will only be fulfilled when they become a reality for every child. The promise of world leaders around the CRC has not yet been met for many children around the world, and the need to fully realize the Churches' Commitments to Children remains urgent. Children are so easily targeted in conflicts, vulnerable to violence and the first victims of natural disasters. Millions suffer and die because of poverty, malnutrition, lack of healthcare or violence. Too many childhoods are brought to an early end as children are forced to leave school, do hazardous work, get married, fight in wars or get locked up in adult prisons.

And the 21st century has brought new challenges for child rights, as children are exposed to new risks in today's digital world. Children need to be protected from online abuse in our world of total access to communication, and churches can help promote safety for children in the use of media.

As a pre-condition for any activities related to children, every church must have a solid child safeguarding policy, and verify that measures are in place to prevent any misconduct in activities involving children and adolescents. I speak here not least about prevention of grave crimes such as sexual abuse of children. Such grave crimes rose to the surface so late because the interests of the clergy were placed before the protection of children.

But as in any institution, safeguarding also implies creating an environment in which children are taken seriously, are encouraged to express themselves, ask questions, and share concerns. It is essential for all churches to make sure that children can speak out in confidential settings when they suffer injustices or need advice on a situation. Our collaboration for churches with Child Helpline International provides new opportunities for such measures.

I am a board member of the international initiative End Violence against Children, as a representative of a faith-based organization together with other representatives from international organizations, countries, and corporations – together with our partner UNICEF. We need to unite our efforts from all sectors to make a difference for our children and the future of humanity. They all deserve to grow up without violence, in their communities, in schools, or in their families. Corporal punishment of children must end, and we as churches should take a certain responsibility to make that happen in schools and in families.

It is strategically important that we as the World Council of Churches continue to mobilize for children and their rights. All children have the same rights to protection against violence, to education and health services. So many churches contribute significantly to secure that. This is a significant dimension in our Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, but it is also a concrete instance of what it means to show how Christ's love moves the world. The focus on children and their universal human rights should have a significant place in our preparations for the next assembly.

Mission and evangelism – in Christ's love

This last week I participated together with some colleagues and the moderator, Dr Agnes Abuom, in the meeting of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism, in Helsinki, Finland. The meeting discussed the follow-up to the World Council of Churches Mission Conference in Arusha, Tanzania, in March of last year. Monday 20th of May, the official reports from the conference were launched and presented. In my address to the commission I emphasized that the focus on mission must be the driving force in the one ecumenical movement. We seek unity, and we do what we do together because we are part of God's mission in the world. We are here to move, to be moved, and create a movement in mission – in all its dimensions. The ecumenical movement is a movement for a mission, not for its own interest. This is so historically, theologically, practically, strategically – and it is a personal experience for many, including myself. It is very important that the CWME and the agenda and contributions from the focus on mission and evangelism have a significant and strong place in the whole of the ecumenical architecture. All dimensions of our work have to do with mission in one way or another: ecumenical formation, interfaith dialogue, work for justice and peace, theological dialogues for unity, care for God's creation.

The document *Together towards Life* (2013) and the focus on the mission from the margins and the "Arusha Call to Transforming Discipleship" are both landmarks in our pilgrimage as one ecumenical movement. We need the further contributions and impulses from the commission and their work in our elaboration of the theme of the 11th assembly. The theme has so much to do with the mission of the churches together. In many ways it raises the question of the role and purpose of the mission of the church, but also how mission is done. Sharing Christ's love must be done in humility and commitment—with Christ's love.

We need to pay attention to how we secure the living and relevant mutual accountability between the different sectors of the work of the WCC, our commissions, programmes, initiatives, and working groups. Therefore, it was important that the Arusha conference was prepared and pursued together with the executive committee and other departments in the WCC staff. The commissions must not be satellites in our WCC family and its work, but share, exchange and receive feedback from one another. In the Staff Leadership Group we have this year started a practice of more regular reporting from the commissions and their work through inviting participation from time to time of each director (as well as managers of different teams) in our SLG meetings. This has proved to be very fruitful and helpful to see the diversity and wholeness of the WCC's work. Maybe a similar practice of inviting the moderators of the commission to some of our executive committee meetings would have the same positive effect.

Giving account of our hope together

We continue to implement the plans for this period from 2018 to 2021. As motivated as we are for the pilgrimage, for exploring new possibilities and new areas of work, we should also be realistic about some of our limitations in terms of time, resources and human capacities. I am very proud of the WCC staff, I am greatly inspired by their commitment, and I am aware that we need to tune our activities also to realistic levels in the coming years amidst different transitions. It will be and must be a period of business as usual in doing what is planned. In addition, there will be planning of the assembly, winding up and

reporting the work of this period, and handling significant changes in the WCC as an organization. We should move forward with confidence and faith that God will continue to lead us in this period.

Most important is that, as the Bible calls us to do, we are always prepared to give account of the hope that is given in Christ's love. To truly be a World Council of Churches together, we must not be pre-occupied with ourselves but have a focus on the hope we are called to share in the world. That will bring all of our work forward: serving and moving the world, in Christ's love.

3.2. Discussion of the General Secretary's Report

The moderator thanked the general secretary for his thoughtful report and invited the members of the committee to discuss it.

H.E. Metropolitan Serafim observed that invitations to participate in WCC events are dependent on the participant's church taking responsibility for the related expenses. We need to offer more chances for the breadth of our membership to be involved. This is particularly important with regard to dialogues with the Roman Catholic Church.

Dr Walker-Smith thanked the moderator, Dr Abuom, and the general secretary for their reports. She asked how 11th Assembly theme can be strengthened, and a strong bridge established between the themes of past and next assemblies. She suggested that one idea is to draw on Rev. Dr Martin Luther King's emphasis on the beloved community. This was a movement of the Spirit, a pilgrimage of love. She expressed appreciation that the WCC is renewing a focus on racism. She noted Rev. Dr Barney Pityana, Rev. Frank Chikane, Rev. Dr Yvonne Delk from the United Church of Christ in the USA, Bishop Frederick Talbot (deceased this year), and Dr Sylvia Ross Talbot, the bishop's widow, as resources for this discussion. The previous programme rightly focused on South Africa, but now how do we open this up?

Bishop Bosse-Huber recalled the general secretary's observation that 2018 was a very busy year and that 'we cannot continue this level of work'. Is this an observation about a particular year or is the staff generally overstretched?

The moderator invited the general secretary to respond to all the speakers. Dr Tveit agreed with H.E. Metropolitan Serafim that that we need to find ways to incorporate more members in our activities. He appreciated that importance of bridging the assembly themes and concurred that the reflections of Dr King can enhance our thinking about this. The potential for the staff to be overstretched is an ongoing concern. We need to do better planning to avoid this. We need to consider whether we are committing to too many major activities in one year.

The report of the general secretary was received by consensus with appreciation.

4. Public Issues

4.1. First Presentation on Public Issues

The moderator invited Mr Peter Prove, Director of the Commission of Church on International Affairs, to present the draft public issue statements the executive committee is asked to approve at this meeting. He read out the full text of each of the draft statements listed above.

Discussion

H.E. Metropolitan Serafim briefly described a visit to Harare where his group learned about the difficult situation of the mothers who are single with children in Zimbabwe. He urged that the WCC speak to their difficult situation.

All the draft statements were referred by consensus to the public issues sub-committee for review.

4.2. Report of the Sub-Committee on Public Issues

H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios of Sassima moderated a decision session and asked H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste to present the report on public issues and draft statements listed above.

4.3. Action on the Report of the Public Issues Sub-Committee

H.E. Metropolitan Nifon, moderator of the sub-committee, presented the report of the actions recommended to the executive committee

The sub-committee reviewed the compilation of Actions on Public Issues, and took note of the Moderator's Welcome Remarks and the Report of the General Secretary.

The sub-committee received, revised and recommended texts on the following issues to the executive committee for action:

4.3.1. Keeping the Faith for an End to AIDS

The statement (https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/bossey-may-2019/statement-keeping-the-faith-for-an-end-to-aids), as revised by the sub-committee, was adopted by consensus.

4.3.2. On the Global Biodiversity Crisis and the Urgent Need for Structural Change

The statement (https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/bossey-may-2019/the-wcc-executive-committee-statement-the-global-biodiversity-crisis-and-the-urgent-need-for-structural-change), as revised by the sub-committee, was adopted by consensus.

4.3.3. Concern and Solidarity for West Papua

The statement (https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/bossey-may-2019/the-wcc-executive-committee-statement-concern-and-solidarity-for-west-papua), as revised by the sub-committee, was adopted by consensus.

4.3.4. On Attacks and Persecution of Christian Communities in Asia

The statement (https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/bossey-may-2019/the-wcc-executive-committee-statement-attacks-and-persecution-of-christian-communities-in-asia), as revised by the sub-committee, was adopted by consensus.

4.3.5. On Ecumenical Accompaniment for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel

The statement (https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/bossey-may-2019/the-wcc-executive-committee-statement-ecumenical-accompaniment-for-a-just-peace-in-palestine-and-israel), as revised by the sub-committee, was adopted by consensus.

4.3.6. Call for De-escalation of Tensions between the USA and Iran

The statement (https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/bossey-may-2019/the-wcc-executive-committee-statement-call-for-de-escalation-of-tensions-between-the-united-states-of-america-and-iran), as revised by the sub-committee, was adopted by consensus.

4.3.7. Commemorating the 2019 Quad-Centennial of the Forced Transatlantic Voyage of Enslaved African Peoples from Angola to Jamestown, Virginia (USA)

The statement (https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/executive-committee/bossey-may-2019/the-wcc-executive-committee-statement-commemorating-the-2019-quad-centennial-of-the-forced-transatlantic-voyage-of-enslaved-african-peoples-from-angola-to-jamestown-virginia-usa-1) was adopted by consensus.

A further proposal for a statement on the lifting of economic sanctions against Zimbabwe was not pursued at this time, following consultations with the general secretary of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches.

The sub-committee proposed that consideration be given at the next executive committee meeting for a statement on education for peace in multi-religious contexts.

4.4. ACT Alliance 3rd General Assembly Public Statements Analysis

The sub-committee reviewed and discussed *ACT Alliance 3rd General Assembly Public Statements Analysis.* The sub-committee noted that in addition to the assembly message issued by the ACT Alliance general assembly in 2018, the assembly adopted 14 separate public statements on a range of thematic issues and geographic situations, many of which also relate to WCC focuses and priorities. While there are differences in focus, priority, and forms of expression (including differences associated with ACT Alliance's role in operational humanitarian assistance and development fields), many of these statements show a broad convergence with relevant WCC policy positions and priorities. However, these statements, while not contradicting WCC policy positions, derive from a very different internal process and are approved through a decision-making model that does not include a consensus methodology. The differences in process in developing policy positions, and the convergence of topics addressed by the WCC and by the ACT Alliance, create a risk of confusion on the part of those who are addressed by or receive statements from both the ACT Alliance – when it represents itself as "faith-based" – and the WCC speaking on behalf of its 350 member churches. This is particularly so when these positions are addressed to our common partners and audiences out of the shared UN office in New York.

Sub-committee members consider that other ACT Alliance statements, whether issued by its global assembly or by its regional forums, use terminology, address issues or take advocacy positions on matters that are inconsistent with the self-understanding of WCC member churches and would not coincide with policy statements of the WCC. In some cases, these statements could be read as presenting a direct provocation to some member churches, or an embarrassment to member churches in their local contexts.

It is noteworthy that ACT Alliance public statements do not explicitly acknowledge any specific points of nexus with WCC policies or programmes of obvious relevance to the issues addressed; nor do they acknowledge ACT Alliance's relationship to the WCC, identify agencies in the ACT Alliance membership as WCC specialized ministries, or name local WCC member churches.

The sub-committee affirmed that these observations illustrate the importance of greater and more consistent investment in utilizing and strengthening the arrangements for policy liaison and intersection between WCC and ACT Alliance, including WCC representation on ACT Alliance governing bodies and in

ACT Alliance advisory bodies concerning advocacy. These arrangements could be better utilized in order to promote appropriate coordination and follow-up, and to mitigate against inconsistency/incoherence in policy expressions on behalf of the one ecumenical movement.

Recommendation: That WCC engage in discussion with ACT Alliance on whether there is, or should be, mutual accountability between WCC and ACT Alliance, to build trust and coherence, despite the fact that each organization has its own governing bodies, strategic plans and policies. This should be an agenda item for a future joint WCC-ACT Alliance governing body meeting.

The recommendation was adopted by consensus.

5. Finance

Dr Abuom, the moderator, welcomed Mr Myles Stott, a certified public accountant and moderator of the WCC audit committee and Ms Elaine Dykes, WCC finance director to the meeting. She invited Mr Stott to begin by presenting the report of the audit committee.

5.1. Presentation of Audit Committee Report

Mr Stott thanked the moderator for her welcome. He explained that the audit is conducted annually that his presentation concerned the audit for 2018. The audit committee is quite satisfied with the work of the auditing company. The auditors have concluded that the WCC accounts are in good order with no major issues. They have issued a formal audit report stating as much, with recommendations for minor internal control adjustments.

He explained that a request for proposal for new auditors for the five year period 2019-2023 would be launched, to reach conclusion in the summer.

He addressed the question of whether an executive committee member could or should serve on the finance sub-committee and the audit committee simultaneously. The audit committee believed that there were distinct advantages in benefiting in the audit committee from the knowledge of financial monitoring conducted by the finance sub-committee. The contributions of the member concerned to the work of the audit committee warrants an exception. In the opinion of Mr Stott, the member concerned should remain on both committees.

H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian (Armenian Apostolic Church [Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin]) reminded him that this would be against the bylaws. Mr Stott suggested amending the by-laws. A proposal was made for the person in question move from the finance sub-committee to a programme committee and remain on the audit committee. Mrs Glynn-Mackoul noted that this issue had been resolved for this meeting and that Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev (Russian Orthodox Church [Moscow Patriarchate]) was asked to serve on the programme committee and therefore not participate in the finance sub-committee. However, as commented on in the report of the audit committee, consideration might be given to amendment of the rules, following a proposal to be submitted by the audit committee to the working group on governance.

Mrs Glynn-Mackoul asked why the detailed report of the auditors was addressed to both the audit committee and the finance sub-committee. Ms Elaine Dykes explained that both committees have a role leading to the issuance of the financial statements. The audit committee interfaces with the auditors, and discusses the content of the detailed report before it is signed. If the audit committee accepts the draft report of the auditors, as well as the financial statements, the audit committee recommends approval for

issuance to the finance sub-committee. For that decision-making step, the finance sub-committee is represented by the three leaders of the finance sub-committee, who then authorise the financial statements for issue.

Presentation of Finance Report

The moderator, Dr Agnes Abuom, asked Ms Elaine Dykes to begin the presentation of the financial report in a hearing session.

Ms Dykes reported that the key financial highlights for 2018 include:

- Total contributions CHF 18 million (2017: CHF 17.4 million)
- Total expenditure CHF 29.2 million (2017: CHF 26.1 million)
- No programme deficit
- General reserves steady at CHF 6.9 million
- Record low charges for infrastructure services
- CHF 270,000 drawn from general reserves for costs of papal visit, as approved in advance by executive committee, and the
- Funds and reserves down by CHF 4.6 million to CHF 6.2 million.

She was pleased to report no programme deficit. This means that programmes drew only on actual income for the year, or available fund balances.

Total income had been under budget by about CHF 1 million. Investment results were the primary factor in the under-performance in income.

The Bossey conference centre had a good result but still under performed in relation to the total need. The Ecumenical Centre had continued to contribute positive results, with rental income increased, and covering operations and staff costs.

The overall decrease in funds and reserves of CHF 4.6 million compares to a budgeted decrease of CHF 3.1 million. This outcome included increased or "accelerated" depreciation charges of CHF 1 million, not budgeted, which were required by accounting policy to reflect that the Ecumenical Centre wings would be demolished in the coming four to five years. There was no cash impact involved in that aspect of the increased deficit result.

However, overall, given the level of reduction in funds and reserves, it had not been possible to make transfers to the assembly or building funds in 2018.

She advised the committee that the budgets for 2019 must be closely managed since there remains limited flexibility for programmes, with the programme fund balances at a record low of CHF 2.8 million.

Turning to the balance sheet, she pointed out that the value of the buildings has to be depreciated over time, and reflect a value of CHF 35 million. The buildings are insured for CHF 110 million, as is reported in the financial report. It was pointed out that there is no land value in the balance sheet, although there is land value in Grand-Saconnex, estimated now also at CHF 100 million. Setting these high values aside, since they might be considered theoretical, should the land not be for sale, or should plots not find buyers at the price expected, the analysis of the balance sheet demonstrated continued available liquidity held by WCC, sufficient to cover obligations, including programme funds, and to cover about CHF 7 million in general reserves.

WCC finances are tracked monthly in order to monitor the situation carefully and make timely adjustments if needed. The results at the end of the first quarter 2019 are very strong, primarily due to

significant annual contributions received in the first months, while programme activity costs are just for the first quarter. However, the Bossey Centre reported a deficit of CHF 120,000 in the first quarter.

Ms Dykes asked Mr Doug Chial, income monitoring and development manager, to give an update on the state of income development.

5.2. Updates on Income Development

Mr Chial reported that 2018 was a good year for giving. Total income to programmes was CHF 18.7 million, increased by CHF 0.6 million compared to 2017, demonstrating that the donor churches are faithful and generous. More details were provided on the progress of the financial strategy. The following are a few of the key highlights:

- Objective 1: Strengthen the stewardship of member churches
  22 more member churches contributed this year. 90% of the 202 churches giving maintained or increased their giving. 90 churches have not contributed since the Busan Assembly in 2013. He asked committee member to help encourage these members to restore their financial contribution to our body.

- Objective 2: Strengthen collaboration with specialized ministries
  Funding cooperation for specific events and activities has increased. Examples include:

  - Additional funding for the World Conference on Mission and Evangelism (Arusha) and the Global Theological Ecumenical Institute (GETI) was secured between 2015 and 2018. 20 member churches and specialized ministries (10) provided CHF 700,000 for Arusha; and 6 member churches and partners provided CHF 200,000 for GETI.
  - The Global Mission agency of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America agreed to act as fiscal sponsor for a grant of USD 20,000 in 2018 from InFaith to support the work of the Ecumenical Water Network – renewal agreed for 2019.
  - DanChurchAid (DCA) provided additional USD 99,997 from its OCHA humanitarian funding to support the work of EAPPI from 07/2018 to 04/2019 – not renewed.
  - Bread for the World for EUR 80,000 and the Presbyterian Church (USA) for USD 45,000 provided increased funding for "Trauma Transformation and Healing Churches" from 09/2018 to 08/2019 for work with South Sudan, Nigeria and Sierra Leone. Both grants were agreed as non-renewable.
  - Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) applied for a 4-year NORAD grant (2019-2022) for "Strengthening the Rights of Faith Minorities in Myanmar and Iraq", for which the WCC is a named as an implementing partner for Iraq-based activities requested by member churches and interfaith partners in Iraq. The NCA application was approved and an agreement between NCA and WCC is under development.

- Objective 3: Develop new sources of income
  Applications were submitted to 9 new funding sources in 2018 and to date in 2019. The status of these applications is: 2 approved, 1 approved then later denied, 2 denied, and 4 pending. Three renewable time-bound grants were extended.

- Objective 4: Strengthen Bossey Scholarship Fund
  A network was established of 170 congregations, regional churches and individuals that contributed to the Bossey or the Bossey Scholarship fund in 2015, 2016 and 2017; and congregations that hosted Bossey Students in 2015, 2016 and 2017. The Bossey scholarship fund received CHF 435,000 in 2018, compared to CHF 360,000 in 2017

- Objective 5: Raise funds for the 11th Assembly
  An assembly contribution appeal is included in the invitation to nominate delegates and will be reiterated in the member church contribution request for 2019. Every member church is asked to make a contribution to the assembly fund equivalent to the value of their annual membership contribution (to be received between 2019 and 2021). Specialized ministries also are asked to contribute to the assembly and pre-assembly activities.

Ms Dykes thanked Mr Chial for his contribution and asked Mr Mark Johnson, finance manager, to speak about the next section on the framework for budget 2020.

5.3. Update on Framework for budget 2020

Mr Mark Johnson gave an overview of the framework for 2020. He pointed out that the largest change is inclusion of projected CHF 17 million income from the building project, reflecting final sales of apartments in the building Montreal, and part of the proceeds expected from land sales for Kyoto.

The core income of membership contributions is projected to remain stable, although the efforts being made to expand and increase membership contributions are appreciated.

He presented the draft budget for the 11th Assembly developed by WCC and donor partners, including the EKD and the Church of Baden in Germany. The total projected expense is CHF 7,630,000. More detailed information about the budget can be found in *11th Assembly Budget Framework.*

5.4. Discussion of the Finance presentation

Bishop Dr Staccato Powell (African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church) asked for clarification about the valuation of the buildings. Ms Dykes referred to the insurance values of CHF 110 million for the buildings, both in Grand-Saconnex and at Bossey. Meanwhile, for WCC, the focus at present was on the potential land value, since two plots would be brought to market. Although an overall land value of CHF 100 million had recently been estimated for the Grand-Saconnex site, that remained theoretical, until sales discussions were concluded. The steering committee had reviewed the construction cost profile for one building to be sold, Montreal. However, the cost of the building was not to be funded by WCC, but by the buyers. The steering committee's role in reviewing the cost profile, was to identify the expected profitability, since a share of the profitable outcome for construction would be due to WCC.

H.E. Metropolitan Serafim raised several questions about the total projected expense of the Green Village Project compared to its anticipated income. Ms Dykes explained that the presentation of the Green Village project would address most of his questions.

H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios asked whether the 90 churches that do not contribute receive subsidies from the WCC for activities or participation. Mr Chial responded that these are basically the same churches that have not contributed for the past decade or more. Travel assistance to WCC activities is available only to member churches that make contributions to the WCC, unless there is a documented exception approved by the general secretary.

5.5. Update on the Green Village Project

Ms Dykes offered a brief introductory update on the Green Village Project.

Only one rental contract has been secured to date for Kyoto, the first office building planned for construction. The building is planned to be completed by 2022.

Some questions before the planning committee include: will the WCC retain ownership of an apartment for the general secretary? Will WCC own and manage the child-care centre?

Ms Dykes then invited Mr Martin Dunning from Implenia, which is the mandated developer for Green Village Project, to continue the presentation.

Mr Dunning, the regional manager of Implenia, expressed thanks to the executive committee for welcoming the Implenia team to make this presentation about the progress and future of the Green Village Project. He introduced his colleagues Ms Camille Sainte-Rose and Ms Luana Vieira who would be joining him in the presentation and discussion.

5.5.1. Planning

- Phase 1 2019-2022
  - Focus on commercialization: develop study for building permit
  - Expectations for apartment sales are greater than initially expected thanks to initial responses to the 'teasing' for the Montreal building.
  - Some soil pollution due to a slight leak in an old underground fuel reservoir for heating for the Centre. This is not yet resolved.
  - A final price list is being determined followed by the division of the land for the various buildings and co-ownership.
  - OPL 20 June will also be a new kick-off for Kyoto building
    - 40% increase website users; marketing campaign has been expanding
    - Marketing projections (03. Letting process) shifting the focus from large to smaller tenants. This requires more management work but is most realistic to achieve sufficient % of tenancy.
    - They remain confident about the attractive characteristics of the Green Village and the ability to secure investors.
- Phase 2 - 2021-2023
- Phase 3 and after - 2022+

5.5.2. Update on Project

The Montreal apartment building now has a website and marketing materials have been approved. The official launch of commercialisation will be in June 2019. The promotional video for the project was presented at this meeting for the first showing. Already 30 clients have been identified as interested in apartment properties. Site presentations for the Kyoto building have been made to nine potential occupants including a diplomatic mission, several NGOs, a private school and a commercial fitness company. The Rio building will have a hotel under Moxy brand with Marriott and Ikea as investors. It has an anticipated price of CHF 51 million with a 20-year fixed-income lease, which will soon be concluded in negotiation.

The entire Green Village Project aims to attain the One Planet Living (OPL) label. OPL promotes sustainable communities, and requires commitments on ten principles negotiated between the municipality, WWF, WCC and Implenia.

10 Principles

The total land valuation has grown from CHF 34 million to CHF 109 million.

The Implenia team raised several points for that need decisions from the WCC:

- Should the WCC should invest in owning the day-care centre in Montreal?
- Should the WCC should invest in owning an apartment in Montreal?
- Moving towards issuing the building permit request for the Ecumenical Centre, with the floor plans as proposed.

They concluded the presentation by encouraging the executive committee to begin consideration about the strategy for the Rio building concerning issues such as land lease, sale of the building, sale of the land and building; or retaining ownership of the land and investing directly in the construction.

The general secretary then responded to the presentation by making several points. The underground parking construction is expected to begin before the end of 2019. This is a significant move from vision to reality and is an important milestone. The Montreal building will be developed before the Kyoto building because it seemed more realistic to secure residential owners before commercial tenants. This will help WCC pay down the loan against the pension fund. In light of these financial realities it is important to keep things going at a good pace. He expressed thanks for the good and challenging work done by the steering committee. He confirmed that we are very happy with our cooperation with Implenia to date. Over the next two weeks the steering committee and Implenia will continue discussion on key questions.

Discussion on the Green Village Presentation

Bishop Simo Peura (Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland) noted that it can be difficult to distinguish the important issues from the minor issues concerning the development of this project. He appreciates the partnership with Implenia in this process.

Bishop Dr Powell asked about the lease plan for the Rio building. Implenia responded that it might make the overall project easier for the WCC if it does not retain ownership – meaning investing about CHF 30 million for construction and therefore holding management responsibilities for the property. But the prospect for lease of the land with income to WCC remained to be studied.

H.E. Archbishop Vicken asked if they have thought of leasing the buildings for long terms, e.g. 20-30 years. Implenia responded that a long-term land lease would be more feasible. The norms of accounting are prohibitive in carrying 20 to 30-year leases in the owner balance sheet.

Rev. Dr Walker-Smith enquired about the programming vision for this community. Are we trying to build a "beloved community"? The question is triggered by the video presentation and our meeting conversations. How does this embody the vision of the WCC and our ecumenical community? Implenia responded that this is rooted in their One Planet Living framework. They are really trying to think about truly developing one neighbourhood. They are designing a neighbourhood management approach to promote this both for practical management questions but also to go more deeply into these values of which she was speaking. This will include the users having voice along with those who are the owners and managers. Rev. Dr Walker-Smith noted that this project offers the opportunity to create a model that can go global.

The general secretary explained that Green Village was chosen as a name because the space will be open for users such as walkers, bicyclers, residents, etc. It will have a life 'after hours', not just during the business day. The hotel is expected to offer rates that meet the needs of organizations like the WCC that have more modest operating budgets. All of this will revolve around our historical Ecumenical Centre which will help our qualities imbue the life of the neighbourhood.

Ms Dykes clarified that the steering committee is giving careful thought to the balance between risk and opportunity with regard to the investment being made by the WCC in this project. This is part of the reason that it is unfolding in stages. Implenia added that phase 1 is focused on generating cash flow to assist the WCC in repaying current loans. Longer term financial planning for return on investment will be developed in the subsequent phases.

Implenia confirmed that they have arrived at a solution this week which gives them confidence that the soil problem can be resolved at minimal expense.

Rev. Dr Asana thanked them and expressed confidence in these plans.

H.E. Metropolitan Zachariah Mar Nicholovos (Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church) was initially sceptical about this project. But as he sees it unfolding, he has more confidence in it.

5.6. Report of the Finance Sub-Committee

The moderator Bishop Dr Mary Ann Swenson invited H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian, moderator of the finance sub-committee to present the report of the sub-committee in a decision session.

5.6.1. Report of the general secretary

The sub-committee noted with appreciation the agenda of meetings of the general secretary with member churches, related organisations and other partners. The sub-committee encourages the general secretary to continue to use the opportunity at some meetings with member churches and other partners to open dialogue on the feasibility of developing cooperation through shared programme work, combining resources to strengthen networks and the impact of our shared advocacy; and to include information on the result of such efforts in his reports.

5.6.2. Financial Report 2018

The financial report for 2018 was received with appreciation by the finance sub-committee.

Recommendations: that the executive committee

1. adopt the financial report 2018; and
2. support the plan to publish the next financial report in electronic form only, subject to any special requirements of funding partners.

The recommendations were approved by consensus.

5.6.3. Detailed report of the auditors

The detailed report of the auditors was received with appreciation by the finance sub-committee.

Recommendations: that the executive committee

- request that the audit committee submit any recommendation concerning amendments to the Supplement to the Rules to the Constitution and Rules Working Group by 12 July 2019, for due consideration at its July meeting;
- appoint H.E. Metropolitan Serafim Kykotis (Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and All Africa) as a member of the leadership of the finance sub-committee; and
- delegate to the leadership of the finance sub-committee the authority to appoint the auditor for 2019, and to mandate the auditor for the period 2019-2023, subject to annual appointment, on the recommendation of the audit committee.

The recommendations were approved by consensus.

5.6.4. Draft Assembly Framework Budget

Recommendations: that the executive committee

a. require that the assembly budget be presented in November 2019, with explanatory notes on the data, including matters raised; and
b. encourages member churches to respond to the appeal for pledges of contributions to the assembly fund, and if possible, by mid-October, to facilitate budget preparation.

The recommendations were approved by consensus.

5.6.5. Income development

Bishop Dr Powell reiterated a previous concern raised that there are some member churches that participate in WCC governance yet make no financial contribution, while others contribute potentially beyond their means. The moderator asked the body to consider how to include our members who genuinely don't have the resources to participate financially.

Doug Chial pointed out that when we speak of contributions, this means more than financial contributions. They contribute through prayer and in-kind contributions (hospitality, local transport, etc.). This is more than a question of finance. The larger question is how to strengthen the fellowship? Lack of financial contribution is generally a sign of something beyond financial capacity.

Rev. Dr Walker-Smith asked how to attract our members through engagement in a meaningful strategy to engagement with and in the WCC?

Bishop Dr Powell asked whether we engage our less-involved members to encourage them to have meaningful involvement with the WCC fellowship. Mr Doug Chial suggested that this is an issue for communications and ecumenical relations as well as finance.

The finance sub-committee considered what new initiatives might encourage the participation of member churches in the fellowship, including participation through payment of the membership contribution, when member churches have not contributed or been active in the fellowship for several years. The sub-committee discussed the possible inclusion of such member churches in feature articles in the new WCC website, in accordance with the communication strategy for the assembly.

Recommendation: that the executive committee

- encourage the general secretary explore the feasibility of the suggestions presented in the sub-committee report.

The recommendation was approved by consensus.

5.6.6. Monitoring financial indicators, 2018-2021

Recommendation: that the executive committee

- require that annual appraisals for staff be conducted as a matter of routine best practice, and that a report be brought on progress at each meeting.

The recommendation was approved by consensus.

5.6.7. Capital expenditure

Recommendation: that the executive committee

- approve the revised budget for capital expenditure 2019 at CHF 714,000.

The recommendation was approved by consensus.

5.6.8. General reserves

Recommendations: that executive committee:

a. delegate to the leadership of the finance sub-committee the authority to approve the level of loan reimbursement which may be achieved in September 2019, if proceeds from Montreal have been received;
b. approve in principle, and to assist in planning for 2020, that a transfer will be made in 2019 to the general reserves from the restricted fund for land, property and equipment, depending on the level of proceeds received from the Montreal transaction, in order to provide for a transfer from the general reserves of CHF 300,000 to the programme fund for central committee; and
c. affirm the principle that the general reserves should remain close to, or at, the CHF 7 million target at the end of 2019, after any required transfers.

The recommendations were approved by consensus.

5.6.9. Designated fund for the building project

Recommendations: that executive committee:

a. approve in principle that a transfer will be made from general reserves to the designated fund for the building project in 2019; and
b. require that the recommendation concerning the value of the transfer be brought for decision at the next meeting.

The recommendations were approved by consensus.

5.6.10. Transaction review process for Green Village

As requested by the steering committee for the real estate development, the finance sub-committee reviewed the document on the transaction review process for the Green Village. With one amendment, to reflect a decision of the steering committee at this meeting on the process for selection for buyers for the Montreal building, the finance sub-committee received the document, and recommended that it be distributed to executive committee for future reference, and with the report of the steering committee at this meeting.

5.6.11. Decision of the leadership of central committee concerning the sale of land and the project Montreal

At its meeting in November 2018, executive committee decided:

a. to conduct the decision-making for the sale of land and the Montreal building project on the basis of the steering committee's recommendation of the financial objective;
b. that if the decision is required before the executive committee meets in May 2019, the decision-making will be conducted by vote and by electronic means, under Rule XVIII.9.

By vote and by electronic means on 29 April 2019, the executive committee decided, on the recommendation of the steering committee to "proceed with the sale of land and the Montreal building project on the basis of the financial plan, with sales projected at CHF 62.1 million, and total costs projected at CHF 40.8 million, and subject to the conditions (i) to (v)", being conditions mentioned in the report of the steering committee of 19 March 2019 (*Report of the Steering Committee for the Real Estate Development Project, March 2019*).

Central committee decided in June 2016 that it "delegates to the leadership of central committee the authority to decide upon sales and long term leases of land or buildings, based on the recommendations of the WCC steering committee for the real estate development project and the decision of the executive committee."

Recommendation:
That for good order, the four members of the leadership of the central committee confirm at this meeting that they have decided upon the sale of the Montreal land and project, based on the recommendation of the steering committee of 19 March 2019, and the decision of executive committee of 29 April 2019, and subject to the conditions described in the report of the steering committee of 19 March 2019.

The recommendation was approved by consensus.

Rev. Dr Walker-Smith noted that there is gravitas to this step of relinquishing ownership of these properties. The general secretary confirmed that this had been carefully considered and the committee had agreed that these steps are the proper way to proceed.

5.6.12. Signing authorities for the sales contracts for Montreal

Recommendation: that

a. the decision of the central committee in 2016 regarding signing authority not restrict commencement of the contracting for sale by the WCC in 2019 and 2020 of the individual transactions related to the Montreal building;
b. sales contracts and related land registry deeds for transactions of units in the Montreal building be signed on behalf of the WCC by the signatories currently registered at the Geneva registry of commerce which include members of both the leadership of the central committee and of the

staff leadership group, under joint authority as specified in that register, and provided that at least one of those signatories is French speaking;

c. in the event that the purchaser is a member of the WCC staff or family member of WCC staff, the general secretary will consult in advance with the WCC lawyer and with the leadership of the central committee on procedures, to ensure an arms-length transaction, and avoid conflicts of interest, or the appearance of impropriety, and the leadership of central committee will then decide on those procedures, including the WCC signatories required for any such transaction; and
d. this decision be reported to central committee.

The recommendations were approved by consensus.

5.6.13. Financial procedures for monitoring programmes to budget 2019

As required by executive committee at its meeting in November 2018, a report was presented on "financial procedures that manage programmes to budget 2019".

The finance sub-committee encouraged the efforts described in the document *Financial procedures for monitoring programmes to budget 2019*, which will build staff competence, improve the quality and timeliness of information available, and improve processes, particularly with regard to travel expense reporting.

5.6.14. Other matters

(i) Investments

The sub-committee received a report on the investment results for 2018, and for the first quarter 2019. Investments total CHF 17.4 million at the end of March 2019, including CHF 7 million held in Swiss franc deposits and bond funds, backing the general reserves.

(ii) Fund for priority areas

The sub-committee received a report on the fund for priority areas, with a value of CHF 76,000. The report showed that allocations had been made in full from the fund for the papal visit and the EHAIA baseline study. In 2019, the budget includes a fund for priority areas at CHF 70,000, which is as yet unallocated.

(iii) Compliance with policy for offices outside Switzerland

The sub-committee received a report on compliance with the policy for offices outside Switzerland. It was reported that further progress had been made in ensuring that staff in the EHAIA offices in Africa were employed in accordance with local labour laws, through agency agreements. There was now compliance for offices in Togo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya and Zimbabwe. Efforts continued to find solutions for the office in Angola.

(iv) Actions on recommendations from prior meetings

As at each of its meetings, the sub-committee reviewed a report on actions taken from prior meetings. The committee noted that all of the matters on which recommendations had been made at its meeting in November 2018 had been either addressed, or were on the agenda of this meeting, or are scheduled for reporting at a future meeting.

The entire report of the finance sub-committee was received with appreciation.

6. Ecumenical Trust (under US law)

Ms Elaine Dykes recalled that the Ecumenical Trust is a non-profit organisation registered under New York State law, held assets of USD 3.1 million as of 31 December 2018, of which USD 2.4 million is held in favour of the WCC – principally in favour of the Ecumenical Institute. The executive committee, as a governing body, is one of its three member partner organisations.

The executive committee is requested by the board trustees of the Ecumenical Trust to approve the amendment and addition to its Bylaws at Article II, 7 and 8 as presented in document *Ecumenical Trust Amendments to Bylaws*. The purpose of these is to enable the board of trustees to utilize electronic decision making as needed.

Recommendation: that the executive committee
amend item 7 on Actions without Meetings and add a new item 8 on Conference Calls and Video Participation to the By-laws of the Ecumenical Trust, as stated in Document 37.

The recommendation was approved by consensus.

7. Governance and Institutional Matters

7.1. First presentation on Governance and Institutional Matters

The moderator, H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima, opened the hearing session.

7.1.1. Nominations

The general secretary presented the document on nominations to the committee. There were no questions or comments.

The report was received and referred to the staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee.

7.1.2. Joint Working Group with the Roman Catholic Church

The moderator invited discussion on the document *Report of the Joint Working Group with the Roman Catholic Church*. Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul requested that the minutes reflect the importance of the gathering yesterday that is the fruit of such deep work between the Roman Catholic Church and WCC. We acknowledge and appreciate the presence of the RECG (Churches and Christian Communities of Geneva Together) participating in the ceremony and the rich and diverse conversation that ensued after the ceremony.

7.1.3. Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration

H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste presented the document *Report of the Permanent Committee on Consensus and* Collaboration. He highlighted the productive nature of the meeting.

The report was accepted by consensus with important recommendations, which are referred to the the staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee.

7.1.4. MOU for Global Christian Forum

The Global Christian Forum is a forum not an institution. Its primary purpose is not to issue statements nor implement programmes. The WCC is the only pillar of the Forum which has asked for a memorandum of understanding (MOU). Rev. Dr Martin Robra went over the document and introduced the new colleague, Rev. Dr Octavian Mihoc (Romanian Orthodox Church), who would be responsible for the GCF.

The document was referred to the staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee.

7.1.5. Constitution and Rules

Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul reported for the Constitution and Rules working group. The group had begun working through electronic decision-making processes. Some issues, with particular relevance for the assembly, were forwarded to the permanent committee on consensus and collaboration, but were referred back to the working group. The most recent meeting was held after the current report was submitted.

The WCC rules reserve five seats for small churches. Recognizing that there is a category for church of 10,000-25,000 (small) which are in relationship but may not take part in decision making in the assembly. They have been given a category of participation but no vote. They had the possibility of representation through five seats on the central committee. This has created complications. We have developed a recommendation about this. Concern was expressed that a whole Christian communion composed of small churches could find itself not represented on the central committee. We are addressing this in our report that will come to you in November. But it would be helpful for the central committee to consider how to address this. Mrs Glynn-Mackoul can share the draft memorandum on this topic.

She reported that the working group believes the primary authority for the election of a general secretary is lodged with the central committee. The group has prepared a separated memorandum on this.

The working group has worked extensively on electronic meetings and decisions. She shared their experience of using this model as a test case. For the vote by the executive committee earlier in the year, they found the many participants didn't review the comments section, they went straight to the vote option. This defeats the purpose of discerning communication to achieve consensus.

The document was referred to the staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee.

7.1.6. Central Committee Preparations

Ms Catherine Christ-Taha noted that the evaluations of the central committee meeting in June 2018 and the executive committee in November 2018 informed the design work for the next central committee meeting. On the agenda there are only three thematic plenaries and more emphasis on internal life of the WCC. We hope to have assembly theme-based plenaries from three different perspectives. There will be a mentoring programme for younger members within the central committee proceedings.

The moderator asked where participants will be accommodated. The participants will be housed in Geneva and will be asked to use public transportation to the Ecumenical Centre. More details are needed to explain about accommodations and the use of public transportation.

Mrs Glynn-Mackoul noted a few issues raised by the permanent committee. Normally the Sunday is for the translators to do their work translating the reports from the committees. There must be sufficient time for the committees do their drafting work and then return to their meetings to ensure that the report is accepted by consensus by the committee itself. Currently there isn't enough time for the committees

to come to complete their work. The back-to-back scheduling of sessions does not give sufficient time for rapporteurs to do their drafting work.

She also urged that the consensus process be presented in a dynamic way to promote the use of this methodology. She hoped that the communications department help develop a presentation to this end.

If the working group can come up with substantive changes to the distribution between the committees or the roles of the moderators, this could be incorporated in the document that goes to the assembly.

The moderator suggested that the general secretary nomination report and the election be held consecutively. If the central committee does not finish in the allotted time, another session would need to be added. The committee agreed that the regional and confessional meetings should occur before the general secretary election.

The document was referred to the staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee.

7.1.7. Venues and Dates for Next Executive Committee Meetings

Ms Catherine Christ Taha presented the dates of upcoming meetings of governing bodies. It was noted that the executive committee members schedule far ahead, so it is important to determine the meeting dates for the next three years.

The document was referred to the staffing, personnel and nominations sub-committee.

7.2. Report of the Sub-Committee on Personnel, Staffing and Nominations

Dr Agnes Abuom moderated a decision session and asked H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios to present the report to the sub-committee.

7.2.1. Moderator Dr Agnes Aboum's Welcome Remarks

The sub-committee warmly received the moderator's welcome remarks at the beginning of this meeting. They appreciated her focus on gender justice, human rights, the assembly theme and preparations, eco-justice and children's rights.

Recommendation: that the executive committee receive the moderator's welcome remarks.

The recommendation was approved by consensus.

7.2.2. Report of the General Secretary

Recommendation: that the executive committee

1. receive the report of the general secretary with appreciation:
2. invite moderators of the commissions to participate in executive committee meetings on a rotational basis, reporting to and discussing the work of the commissions with the executive committee, starting in November 2019.

The recommendations were approved by consensus.

7.2.3. Assembly

Recommendation: that the executive committee

1. approve the recommendations of the reports
    - WCC 11th Assembly Preparations
    - Report of the Assembly Planning Committee
    - Proposed Assembly Communication Strategy
2. ask the general secretary to develop a mandate and composition of a small representative group including younger theologians on the assembly theme, to present to the leadership of the central committee at their meeting in September; the group would be set up to
    - prepare the theological reflections on the theme that can serve all the preparations of the assembly to be presented to the March 2020 central committee meeting
    - draft a statement with a working title of "Christ's Love for Unity and Reconciliation" to be presented to the executive committee in May 2021 in preparation for the assembly
3. that an update on the staff reflections paper on the assembly theme be brought back to the executive committee at its meeting in November 2019
4. that the following papers be forwarded to the meeting of the assembly worship planning committee in July to facilitate their work
    - Ecumenical Review, issue 71.1-2
    - H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios' lecture, Cyprus, January 2019
    - Fr. Ioan Sauca paper on Orthodox reflections on the Assembly theme at the meeting of CWME
    - A further revised draft theme reflection paper by staff
    - General secretary's lecture in Los Angeles, April 2019
5. that the central committee in March 2020 encourage the churches to coordinate the process of elections in due time before the assembly
6. That the general secretary ask two members of the central committee, one from the executive committee, to participate in a meeting organized by the communication department in July 2019 on further developing the report From Busan to Karlsruhe
7. That the assembly office presents an updated cohesive report on assembly preparations from various committees and meetings to the executive committee meeting in November 2019.

The recommendations as amended were approved by consensus.

7.2.4. Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration

The sub-committee expressed its thanks for the report and the work done at the last meeting of the permanent committee on consensus and collaboration (PCCC). Thanks were also expressed to H.B. John X, Patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church of Antioch and All the East, for the wonderful hosting at the Monastery in Balamand in Lebanon.

The sub-committee offered the following comments:

1. The orientation on consensus for the next central committee could be done through a video presentation;
2. Timing for the revision of the booklet Achieving Consensus should be between March 2020 central committee meeting and the 11th assembly;
3. As was also affirmed in the discussion on the central committee preparations, the annotated agenda is necessary for the meeting; the timing of the meeting should allow for developing consensus; the documents should be sent ahead of time.

Recommendation: that the executive committee

1. approve all the recommendations in the report
2. strongly recommend that a consensus consultant be appointed for next executive and central

committee meetings in particular, to be chosen by the leadership of the central committee

3. a proposal for a mandate for the consensus consultant be presented for approval to the executive committee in November 2019.

The recommendations were approved by consensus.

7.2.5. Constitution and Rules Working Group

The sub-committee was informed about ongoing process of discussion by the working group on constitution and rules by the moderator of the group, Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul. Some of the areas of focus were highlighted:

1. The different responsibilities assigned to the standing committees of the central committee and the sub-committees of the executive committee; the skills needed by the members to fully participate in the work of the committees and sub-committees;
2. Electronic voting and meetings by electronic means, including criteria for using such means for decision making;
3. Term limits for executive committee members and the concern for continuity as well as giving more churches the possibility of participation in the executive committee; a suggestion was made to have an evaluation of the rotation;
4. Smaller churches, their participation in the assembly and nominations to the central committee.

The group will continue its work by conference call till its face-to-face meeting in July. None of the tentative amendments will be finalized before that meeting. The group has asked for feedback from the ECHOS commission which is to meet in August 2019. The working group will fine tune the recommendations and present a report to the next meeting of the executive committee in November 2019. The report will also be sent to the permanent committee on consensus and collaboration for their comments (meeting in February 2020) after which it will be forwarded to the central committee for its meeting in March 2020.

The executive committee members who have not yet filled in the questionnaire sent by the working group on the experience of the first four years of their term on executive committee are strongly encouraged to do so.

Recommendation: that the executive committee ask the working group to continue in their work and present a report to the next meeting of the executive committee in November 2019.
The recommendation was approved by consensus.

7.2.6. Evaluation of Executive Committee in Uppsala

The sub-committee was grateful for the evaluation of the last meeting of the executive committee, held in Uppsala, Sweden, November 2018. Some disappointment was expressed that only 16 members responded to the evaluation and the sub-committee urges the members to take the time to fill in the evaluation form. The trend of losing some ground on consensus was highlighted and it was said that improvements need to be made on consensus for future governing bodies meetings.

7.2.7. Central Committee Meeting 2020 Preparations and Agenda

The sub-committee affirms the current direction of the preparations of the next meeting of the central committee, to take place in Geneva in March 2020.

Some changes were suggested to the draft agenda. Issues for further consideration include

1. Adequate time for the closed session and an intentional structuring/timing of the sessions ;

2. Sufficient meeting time be made available for the committees so that each committee report can be drafted, approved by the committee and then translated and printed for the plenary;
3. Development of the Sunday programme to include a celebration of service for the outgoing general secretary;
4. Thematic plenaries are to be organized in close consultation with the relevant commissions;
5. The importance of further developing the consensus ethos and decision making method in the next central committee meeting.

Recommendation: that the executive committee recommends that preparations should continue based on the discussions and advice from the executive committee and that a further report on the work done be presented to the next meeting of the executive committee in November 2019.
The recommendation was approved by consensus.

7.2.8. Dates and Venues of Future Governing Bodies

The sub-committee received the information on the dates and venues of future governing bodies meetings with the following clarifications:

1. The executive committee meeting preceding the central committee in March 2020 will begin its business at 15:00 on 16 March and possibly work in an evening session; departures after the central committee are on the evening of 24 March or on 25 March;
2. The executive committee meeting in November 2020 will begin on 13 November (arrivals on 12) and conclude on 18 November (departures evening of 18 or on 19 November);
3. On behalf of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion church, Bishop Dr Staccato Powell will investigate the possibilities of hosting the November 2020 executive committee meeting; this will be confirmed in November 2019.

2019		
Executive Committee	20-26 November	Bossey, Switzerland
2020		
CC Leadership	January	Geneva, Switzerland
Executive Committee	16-17 March	Geneva, Switzerland
Central Committee	18-24 March	Geneva, Switzerland
CC Leadership	August	Geneva, Switzerland
Executive Committee	13-18 November	Tbd
2021		
CC Leadership	Jan/Feb	Geneva, Switzerland
Executive Committee	19-25 May	Bossey, Switzerland
Executive Committee	7 September	Karlsruhe, Germany
Assembly	8-16 September	Karlsruhe, Germany

Recommendation: that the executive committee affirm the dates for its meeting in Spring 2021 as 19-25 May 2021 with arrivals on 18 May and departures on the evening of 25 or 26 May.
The recommendation was approved by consensus.

7.2.9. Global Christian Forum

The sub-committee received the revised version of the Memorandum of Understanding between the WCC and the Global Christian Forum.

Recommendation: that the executive committee affirm the revised version of the Memorandum of Understanding between the WCC and the Global Christian Forum (new paragraph 9) and approve its signature by the general secretary.
The recommendation was approved by consensus.

7.2.10. Joint Working Group

The sub-committee received with appreciation the report of the meeting of the Joint Working Group of the WCC with the Roman Catholic Church which took place in May 2019 in Warsaw. The group also acknowledged the conference on 21 May with the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue to launch the document "Education for Peace in a Multi-Religious World: A Christian Perspective." The sub-committee affirmed the importance of this initiative and encourages the continuing collaboration with Roman Catholic Church.

7.2.11. Membership matters

Recommendation: that the executive committee

1. recommend to the central committee to discontinue the membership of the Church of Jesus Christ on Earth by His Special Envoy Simon Kimbangu (Kimbanguist church) as a member church of the WCC;
2. require the general secretary in the next report on membership matters to the executive committee, to include information on any church that has withdrawn its membership, to forward to the central committee;
3. taking into consideration the report of the visit to the First African Church Mission and the recommendations of the PCCC, recommend to the central committee that the First Africa Church Mission (Nigeria) be admitted into the WCC fellowship, according to Rule 1.5, for the specified interim period of participation in the work of the WCC and for interaction with the local fellowship of WCC member churches, towards acceptance as a member church

The recommendations were approved by consensus.

7.2.12. Nominations

The sub-committee received the document on nominations. With regard to the nominations being made, some concern was expressed that there is only one more meeting of most of these bodies before the next assembly. It is important that the leadership of these groups take this into account and intentionally integrate the new members.

Recommendation: that the executive committee

1. forward the following recommendations to the central committee meeting in March 2020 for action and these replacements be invited to the next meeting of the central committee in anticipation of that body's decision:
    a) Rev. Serge Fornerod (M/O) from the Federation of Swiss Protestant Churches has been named to replace Rev. Dr Martin Hirzel (M/O) who retired from the central committee.
    b) Rev. Dr Karen Georgia A. Thompson (F/O), Minister for Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations from the United Church of Christ in the United States has been named to replace Rev. Geoffrey Black (M/O) who retired from his ministry in the church.
    c) His Grace Bishop Abraham (M/O), Auxiliary Bishop in the Diocese of Los Angeles from the Coptic Orthodox Church has been named to replace the late Metropolitan Prof. Dr Bishoy of Damietta (M/O).
    d) Dr Diana Tsaghikyan (F/L) from the Armenian Apostolic Church (Mother See of Holy

Etchmiadzin) has been named to replace Ms Paula Der Matoian (F/L) who resigned from the central committee.

   e) Ms Merenaisi Maopa (F/L/Y), Methodist Church in Fiji, an ordained deaconess, has been named by the church following a meeting of church leaders in the Pacific region in November 2018 to replace Ms Tutai Mauke (F/L/Y), Cook Islands Christian Church following the withdrawal of its membership (letter dated December 2017);

2. forward the nomination of Rev. Everdith Landrau (F/O/Y) from the Presbyterian Church USA to the central committee for action and that she be invited to the next meetings of the executive committee in anticipation of the central committee's decision. (this to be adjusted according to the conversation among NA members);
3. the constitution and rules working group be asked to consider developing a protocol to be articulated in the Rules or the Supplement to the Rules when a replacement on central and executive committees is needed;
4. Assembly Planning Committee: forward the nomination of Ms Merenaisi Maopa (F/L/Y) from the Methodist Church in Fiji to the central committee for action and that she be invited to the next meetings of the assembly planning committee in anticipation of the central committee's decision.
5. forward the following recommendations to the central committee for action and that these participants be invited to the next meetings of the Joint Working Group and the commissions in anticipation of the central committee's decision:
   a) Joint Working Group of the WCC with the Roman Catholic Church: Following the death of Rev. Robina Winbush (F/O) from the Presbyterian Church (USA), Rev. Dr Karen Georgia A. Thompson (F/O) from the United Church of Christ has been suggested by the general secretary to replace her on the JWG executive.
   b) Commission of the Churches in International Affairs (CCIA): Following the reassignment of Mr Vakhtang Kipshidze (M/L), Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate), to other duties, Rev. Fr Stefan Igumnov (M/O) has been nominated by his church to the commission.
   c) Commission on Education and Ecumenical Formation: Rev. Dr LEE Jae-Cheon (M/O), Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea (PROK), general secretary has been named to replace the former general secretary of PROK, Rev. BAE Tae-Jin (M/O) on the commission.
   d) ECHOS – Commission on Youth in the Ecumenical Movement: Following the reassignment of Deacon Alexandr Karzan (M/O/Y), Russian Orthodox Church (Moscow Patriarchate), to other duties, Mr Philippe Champion (M/L/Y) has been nominated by his church to the commission.

The recommendations were approved by consensus.

7.2.13. Ecumenical Trust Amendment to Bylaws

The sub-committee received the document and noted the proposed amendments in Section II, 7 and 8 related to meetings by electronic means.

Recommendation: that the executive committee accept the amendments to the Ecumenical Trust Bylaws.
The recommendation was approved by consensus.

8. 11th WCC Assembly

8.1. Preparations for the 11th WCC Assembly

H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima shared some of the highlights of second meeting of the assembly planning committee (APC) convened in Paralimni, Cyprus, 9-16 January 2019, upon the invitation of the Church of Cyprus. H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Vasilios of Constantia-Ammochostos kindly hosted the meeting. H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios called the members' attention of the three types of recommendations in the meeting report: the first to the executive committee, the second to staff, and the third to the assembly worship and planning committees. The recommendations are presented in document *Assembly planning committee report*.

H.E. Metropolitan Serafim Kykotis hoped that assembly preparations in the different regions of our membership be increased alongside the preparations being done in Geneva and by the central leadership.

Dr Agnes Abuom highlighted the four pre-assemblies on youth, women, indigenous peoples and people with disabilities. She urged that consideration be given to ways the experiences and findings of these events can be brought into the assembly itself. The youth and women pre-assemblies are being organized by the WCC, the others are the responsibility of local churches.

8.2. Assembly Theme

Rev. Dr Odair Mateus Pedroso presented the background to the document *Christ's Love Moves the World to Reconciliation and Unity – Staff Reflections* for the assembly prepared by the WCC staff. It connects the theme for the 11th assembly historically to the early foci of the WCC. In the current global context where nationalist ideologies are increasing, how do we dare to assert that that Christ's love is moving us to reconciliation? This is an exercise we are doing 'in the house' because we want to take the assembly theme seriously. The moderator thanked the staff for modelling this engagement with the theme and for "leading us on the way" towards the next assembly.

H.E. Metropolitan Nifon and H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazia asked why we aren't recognizing "Christian-aphobia". We need to recognize that our own people are also persecuted in some contexts. We cannot forget the suffering of Christians even as we attend to the persecution of others through racism and xenophobia.

H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios asked about the purpose of the staff paper. What is the executive committee being asked to do with it? The general secretary responded that 'this our question to you'. How do we pursue the reflection of the theme not only within our own staff and leadership but in our wider community? We would appreciate guidance from the executive committee on this question.

8.3. Recommendations for the 11th WCC Assembly

Ms Beate Fagerli, coordinator for the 11th Assembly, presented a power point that offered visual images of the host city of Karlsruhe, Germany.

Five meetings for the assembly planning were held in the first quarter of 2019:

1) GETI planning meeting, Bossey, 26 February;

2) Official WCC visit to Karlsruhe (EKD, EKiBa, ACK, the Lord Mayor, Local Press conference and a finance meeting WCC, EKD, EKiBa, 27 February-1 March);

3) ACK meeting: Lernhaus Ökumene, 25 April;

4) Working Together meeting, Bossey, 7-8 May; and

5) Meeting with ecumenical officers, EKD, Hannover, Germany,15 May.

There is excitement from our German hosts not only to share their country and culture but to be curious and open to all the knowledge and experience our participants will bring from around the globe.

Further meetings will be held through the summer including:

- German Host Committee meeting in Dortmund, 19 June;
- WCC and Regional Ecumenical Organisations meeting in Geneva, 2-4 July; and
- Assembly Worship Planning Committee meeting in Bad Herrenalb near Karlsruhe, 5-11 July.

The Assembly theme is: "Christ's love moves the world to reconciliation and unity". A reflection paper on the theme will be prepared as well as a set of Bible studies. The theme will be explored globally and then through regional and more specific thematic foci each day of the assembly. The general flow of the assembly has been mapped out, but the precise timetable is still being designed.

The venue for the assembly and its surrounding environment were described. The castle will be the centre of the assembly campus. There are several large buildings in proximity to it that will accommodate thematic plenaries and other assembly events. Participants will be able to find rest and recreation in surrounding green areas. Additional break out rooms will be reserved in various commercial buildings, all within a slow 10-minute walk from the main events area.

H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios advised that the length of the mandate of the assembly planning committee may have to be extended. H.E. Metropolitan Serafim asked whether there is there enough budget for an additional preparatory meeting. He also asked how people of African descent in Europe are involved in the planning. H.E. Metropolitan Nifon asked how Orthodox in Germany are being involved in the planning.

Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber explained that Mr Andrej Jeftíc (Serbian Orthodox Church), a central committee member is a member of the APC. She also said that migrant churches in Germany, including Orthodox, are members of the national council, the Council of Christian Churches in Germany (ACK).

The general secretary stated that funding is adequate, but this suggestion would be brought to the executive committee in the fall.

8.4. 11th WCC Assembly Communications

Ms Marianne Ejdersten, WCC director of communication, used a power point to present the communications strategy leading up to and throughout the assembly. WCC communication is determined to put a "human face" on assembly messages through compelling, candid storytelling, with an eye toward quality rather than an "oceans of information" approach based on quantity. In addition to traditional methods of communication, the team will endeavour to explore creative storytelling methods to carry specific messages.

The communication team is aware of our many stakeholders and is being proactive and intentional about involving them in our strategy. They are mindful that this should not be a European assembly but rather a global assembly.

The APC has asked for a special focus to youth collaboration.

English, German, French and Spanish will be the official languages of the assembly.

Members from ecumenical partners in communication will be invited to take an online training programme in preparation for their work on and for the assembly.

In response to a question about the strategies to market the assembly, Ms Ejdersten noted that the communications office releases a weekly newsletter to reach out to our members. Executive committee members are urged to subscribe. The newsletter includes stories from our members about how they are preparing for the assembly. Marketing the assembly beyond the traditional bounds of the WCC is a good idea. Inviting partners to journey with us will soon be taken up in the strategy.

Dr Abuom urged the executive committee to reflect on how those who are not active Christians can get to know what is happening with the assembly. How do we populate the secular space? Rev. Dr Angelique Walker-Smith offered the model of having "champions" in the secular space (they may be Christians, but they are known leaders in their secular roles). We have stars in the secular space who are stars in our faith space.

Rev. Dr Walker-Smith advised that communications should speak not only to preparation for the event but also about what participants will do after the event. How do we help the churches to speak to the gravitas of the event? How do we support them not only as they are on the mountain top but as they return to the valley? How do they carry forth the assembly theme for the following 8 years?

Mrs Glynn-Mackoul inquired about the plans for electronic security. Ms Ejdersten responded that after a recent incident, WCC is particularly aware of the need for security. We are working with the hosts to address this.

8.5. From Busan to Karlsruhe

Ms Marianne Ejdersten confirmed that the communications team is preparing a report on the work of the WCC between the Busan and Karlsruhe assemblies for the 11th assembly. It will offer an 8-year perspective, harvesting stories from our work that have inspired us, guided by the strategic objectives. The report should be an accountability report. It will assist the delegates to better understand the council's journey the last few years so that they can responsibly participate in policy discussions for the assembly

Organizing a one-day meeting in Karlsruhe to bring perspectives that tell the story from members' points of view and experiences was suggested. A special post for crisis communication should also be established at the assembly.

Ms Ejdersten then presented the proposed assembly communication budget.

In response to a question on reducing the WCC's part of the budget, Ms Ejdersten recalled that for Busan, the Korean churches provides substantial 'in-kind' contributions. A more detailed budget will be available after the November executive committee meeting.

Bishop Dr Powell enquired about a budget for television. How do we project to those who are not aware of our work or even existence? Ms Ejdersten explained that broadcasting possibilities are being explored with German media partners. Ms Beate Fagerli affirmed the importance of the question and this will be addressed with the APC.

Rev. Dr Walker-Smith asked about the public relations plan. She suggested considering engaging a commercial public relations firm, while acknowledging that it would have substantial financial implications. Ms Ejdersten explained they are in the early planning stage and will be elaborating a public relations strategy. They have resources already to pursue this, so it is not likely that an external partner needs to be engaged. They do request that two experts from executive committee be involved in this process for developing *From Busan to Karlsruhe*.

The documents were received and referred to the programme sub-committee.

9. Programme

Bishop Dr Mary Ann Swenson, the session moderator, invited Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber, moderator of the programme sub-committee to make the first presentation on programme.

9.1. Programme

Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber commended the full narrative of the *Summary of Programme Reports 2018* to the gathering. She highlighted key topics from it for the attention of the executive committee and the sub-committee on programme.

- Pilgrimage of justice and peace – the contribution to the pilgrimage of justice and peace is visible in all reports; particularly with regard to activities that were convened with and took place in Latin America and the Caribbean; or in relation to the thematic focus on diakonia and development.
- 70th anniversary of the WCC – though coordinated through the general secretariat, all reports indicate how the anniversary was integrated across activities and stimulated other celebrations such as the 50th anniversary of the Uppsala Assembly, the birth of the programme to combat racism and the 20th anniversary of the Decade of the Churches in Solidarity with Women.
- World Mission Conference (Arusha) – though coordinated through Mission and Evangelism, many reports refer to the event as a space that reinforced relations and activities, i.e. with churches that are not members of the WCC (Roman Catholic, Evangelical and Pentecostal), collaboration with theological institutions through the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute (GETI), etc.
- Visit of Pope Francis – the papal visit on 21 June in the presence of the central committee, though not originally planned, had a significant impact on the WCC, increasing the visibility of the fellowship, but also reinforcing peace-building efforts in priority countries and with emerging issues such as migration, xenophobia and racism.

The *Summary of Programme Reports 2018* was presented to the executive committee for reception. It presents a summary of results in logical framework of 'observed outcomes' compared to 'expected outcomes' as per 'outcome indicators' and 'results'. The summary is not required by funding partners. The production of the summary normally follows the publication of the programme reports to the funding partner on 31 May. Production of the summary was accelerated for review by the executive committee. The executive committee was asked to receive the reports.

The executive committee meeting of November 2017 (Amman) recommended to the general secretary to ensure that the Gender Advisory Group fulfil its mandate as a reference group to the Just Community of Women and Men. As this recommendation was not in the 2012 approved Terms of Reference for the Gender Advisory Group, the proposal is to make the advisory group become a reference group for the Just

Community of Women and Men work. Initially the Gender Advisory Group was not in favour of the change in their mandate. At their meeting in January 2019, after completing their major task in working with the general secretary to draft the gender justice policy, they agreed to the change of name and change of mandate. If this is approved by the executive committee, the Terms of Reference for the Just Community of Women and Men are included.

Plans for the Just Community of Women and Men 2019-2021 presents the strategy and plans for the Just Community of Women and Men for the period 2019 – 2021. It is shared for information.

Update on the Implementation of the WCC strategic plan 2018-2021 presents indicators and expected outcomes the period of 2018-2021, which is the lead up to the next assembly.

Draft WCC Gender Justice Policy is presented to this executive committee meeting for information. It is the result of the 2015 report of the Gender Advisory Group that was approved by the central committee meeting in Trondheim, Norway, June 2016. That report laid out the strategy of engagement with the Council's constituencies in order to collect information towards the development of the gender justice policy. The June 2018 central committee meeting received a follow-up report and plan for the policy. Within that report was a revised process for the development of a gender justice policy. The main target audience for the policy are the WCC staff, governing bodies, commissions and reference groups. The aim of the policy is to ensure equal participation and proper relationship of women and men in all aspects of WCC life, work and witness. It should be incorporated into the WCC staff rules and regulations after the approval of the document by the central committee meeting in 2020. The executive committee is asked to receive and discuss the document. It should also go to the PCCC before it goes in March 2020 to the central committee. The May 2019 executive committee may recommend some revisions and request to see it again at the November 2019 executive committee meeting.

WCC and ACT Alliance Joint Day Evaluation is the response to the request of the executive committee in November 2018 that the general secretary present an evaluation of the Joint Day of ACT Alliance and the WCC to the next executive committee meeting. The Joint Day was largely well received and enjoyed by participants. The members of the organising committee worked well, despite considerable pressures. The disparity of size between the ACT Alliance Assembly and the WCC executive committee did not make the Joint Day an appropriate setting to discuss the relationship between the two organisations. A smaller gathering (of equal sized representation) has been arranged to take place towards the last quota of this year. A positive outcome was enthusiasm from participants to create a joint WCC and ACT Alliance reference group on theology and development. This small advisory group would serve to advise on areas for collaboration and help to identify areas to avoid duplication of work.

Archbishop Emeritus Dr Anders Wejryd presented the document on *Process for the Ecumenical Conversations on Human Sexuality*. He reminded body that since 1961 gender issues have been discussed at WCC assemblies. He was the chair since 2016 of the reference group on human sexuality. That group is now committed to develop an educational discussion document for consideration by our wider community. We are trying to link this to the Faith and Order process on the pilgrimage of justice and peace. We have developed a clear consensus to proceed with this document. This summer we will be receiving the final feedback inputs from stakeholders. It will be finalized to present to the executive committee meeting in November, to decide whether to put this document forward to the central committee.

Ecumenical Diakonia Study Document Process Update was presented for information. It suggests that the document should include two additional chapters on confessional perspectives and geographic context while deleting one of the other chapters.

Activities on Racism provides updates on WCC activities including: 1) The WCC-Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (WCC-EAPPI) Workshop, 2) Pilgrim Team Visits by the Reference Group of pilgrimage of justice and peace on 28 Feb.-2 March, 2019, 3) United States of America Churches on racism, 4) WCC-CCIA Training On Achieving Racial Justice Through UN Human Rights Mechanisms, 5) Ecumenical Strategic Forum on Racism, Xenophobia and Racial Discrimination, 6) Academic Theological Forum on Racism in Asia, and v7) The Manchester Conference in 2020.

The Report of the Joint Meeting of the RGPJP and TSG elaborates on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace Reference Group (PJP RG) and Theological Study Group (PJP TSG) joint Pilgrim Team Visits to Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Pakistan and Thailand form 2-4 March 2019. Thereafter they had a joint meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand 4-6 March 2019. Through visits starting from Israel and Palestine, to Nigeria, South Sudan, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Colombia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Myanmar, India and Thailand common concerns emerged that are rooted in the daily life experiences of many people. The PJPTSG together with the PJPRG is preparing the harvesting from these experiences and stories exploring the following four closely interrelated themes that have also grown in importance in the ongoing programmatic work of the WCC: truth and trauma, land and displacement, gender justice, and racial justice.

Summary Report of the 56th meeting of the CCIA: The 56th meeting of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA) took place in Bali, Indonesia, on 24-28 February 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to plan CCIA initiatives/activities/procedures 2019-2021, including: 1) Follow-up to PTV to Indonesia (on religious freedom, and on the situation in West Papua); 2) 2020 PTV to the Pacific region (focusing on nuclear weapon testing sites); 3) Preparation for CCIA 57th meeting (2020); 4) Topics for public issue statements by WCC governing bodies; 5) Further initiatives on climate change; 6) Human Rights and Christian Ethics reflection process; and 7) Planned joint DPIHD-CCIA Conference on Minorities (November 2019). Spotlight sessions were held on rcial justice, and climate change and economic justice.

Report of the Joint meeting of WCC-EHAIA International Reference Group and WCC-EAA HIV Strategy Group highlights the key points of discussion and the recommendations developed by the members of the WCC-EHAIA IRG and WCC-EAA HIV Strategy Group at their meeting in Nairobi, Kenya from 30 April to 2 May 2019. At this meeting, they: 1) received reports on the extensive work done by these two ecumenical initiatives in 2018; 2) discussed and refined the strategies suggested by the staff of the two initiatives; 3) received information regarding the forthcoming WCC's 11th Assembly; 4) discussed future engagement and strategies. The later included the formation of three working groups to address the following domains: fund raising for HIV and AIDS work, assembly preparations, and the way forward, in terms of how the HIV and AIDS response would be addressed by WCC after the assembly. A public meeting highlighting the PEPFAR-UNAIDS Faith Initiative by implementing partners was convened with panel discussions. This event provided the opportunity to launch manuals and handbooks to guide faith communities to respond to HIV. It became clear that both initiatives continue to build on the WCC response to HIV, which was formally started in 1986 with the central committee statement on the imperative of the church's response to HIV. Conversation has continued as to how best to bring HIV and AIDS under one reference group as having two groups is administratively challenging.

Update on the Implementation of the WCC strategic plan 2018-2021 Indicators was presented for action. Based on the mid-term evaluation (MTE) of the WCC Strategic Plan 2014-2018, the central committee, in June 2018, adopted the WCC Strategic Plan 2018-2021, maintaining the pilgrimage of justice and peace as the strategic direction; and re-affirming the five strategic objectives. The MTE recommended that indicators associated with the strategic objectives 2018-2021 be sharpened to allow for systematic monitoring in a meaningful manner. The MTE identified a disconnection between the high-level strategic

objectives and the programmatic objectives, i.e. it is difficult to relate how the achievement of programmatic objectives contributes to the achievement of the strategic objectives. The central committee asked the executive committee to monitor the development of the Strategic Plan 2018-2021 (strategic objective indicators); and requested that programmatic objectives and indicators for 2018-2021 be further developed and reviewed by the executive committee. The document presents a logical framework of strategic and programmatic objectives, indicators and means of verification to enhance the ability to monitor the implementation of the strategic plan.

Proposal for Programmatic Restructure EF3 Continuing Formation presents a new project initiated by the WCC in education and ecumenical formation programme, that of ecumenical continuing formation (EF3). It is meant to encourage, strengthen, monitor and coordinate different activities organized by the different WCC programmes in view of continuing education and formation through seminars, short term courses, webinars, etc. In the period 2014-2017, courses of continuing formation were organized across the different programmes of WCC and were very successful. The organisation of such continuing formation courses has become a priority for most of the WCC programmes and this is to continue. On the basis of the above evaluation and taking into account that in October 2019, the staff person responsible for the coordination of the project, Rev. Dr Martin Robra, will retire, it is recommended to discontinue the staff position and the EF3 as a project, and to strengthen and encourage that such timely and essential activities are carried on through the different programmes as described above.

Communication update takes as its starting point the executive committee's decision in November 2018 and presents a projected view of work accomplished in the period of 2018-2019, outlining visions as well as concrete results and working procedures envisioned for the department and its work with WCC programmes. It further reports on the work in collaboration with the WCC's programmatic areas in the first half of 2019.

9.2. Discussion on Programme

The moderator thanked Bishop Bosse-Huber for her thorough presentation of the report on programme. He invited the committee to discuss the reports.

H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios observed that the three groups on gender justice, community of women and men, and human sexuality are inter-related and asked whether they could be merged, or at least can they meet together to see to what extent their work overlaps?

Mrs Glynn-Mackoul noted that the human sexuality project is stretching us, perhaps beyond the comfort zones of some of our membership. We need to hear that each of these three topics focuses on important and distinct issues. Perhaps it is on us to integrate their insights and positions, rather than trying to merge the three streams into one.

The general secretary suggested that it can be a good time to review the purposes and mandates of our many initiatives. Perhaps it is time to review them and ask ourselves whether some of them should wind up at the 11th Assembly. His understanding is that when the human sexuality report is delivered, that committee has completed its task.

H.E. Metropolitan Serafim commented that we are not engaging the wider WCC community as we should.

9.3. Programme Sub-Committee report

Dr Agnes Abuom moderated a decision session and invited Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber to present the report from the programme sub-committee.

9.3.1. Moderator's Welcome Remarks

Recommendation: that the executive committee receive the Moderator's Welcome Remarks with appreciation and with gratitude for the moderator's work as well as for the work of the whole leadership. The recommendation was adopted by consensus.

9.3.2. Report of the general secretary

Recommendation: that the executive committee

1. receive the report with appreciation for the work done by the general secretary and his staff;
2. suggest the general secretary to mention for remembrance in the future the names of staff that passed away;
3. ask the general secretary to continue the preparations for the WCC 11th Assembly with special attention for
   - harvesting from the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace
   - harvesting from World Conference on Mission and Evangelism in Arusha
   - the overcoming of racism as an issue that continues to be a main issue
   - the churches' commitment to children
4. ask the general secretary to prepare a proposal for programmatic work on racial justice

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.3. WCC Communication Update

Recommendation: that the executive committee

1. receive the report with great appreciation;
2. affirm the importance of the communications department in conveying the internal and external work of the World Council of Churches;
3. encourage member churches to share their stories with communication staff, so that the fellowship of churches can benefit.

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.4. Report on the WCC and ACT Alliance Joint Day on Ecumenical Diakonia and Sustainable Development, 1 November 2018

The programme sub-committee welcomes the idea of the smaller gathering of equal sized representation and the enthusiasm from participants to create a joint WCC and ACT Alliance reference group on theology and development.

Recommendation: that the executive committee

1. receive the report with appreciation;
2. monitor how programmatic cooperation is strengthened.

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.5. Programme Reports 2018 Narrative and Summary

Recommendation: that the executive committee

1. receive the reports and express gratitude for the work done by the staff;
2. ask the general secretary to analyse and review how the effectiveness of the transversals can be strengthened, how the integrated approach for the programmatic work can be measured for impact and how the spiritual dimension of the work of the World Council of Churches can become more visible;
3. reaffirm youth engagement in the ecumenical movement;
4. ask the general secretary to make plans for new forms of ecumenical formation, internship and stewardship, especially for international youth from the global south.

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.6. Follow up to executive committee decisions on programme

Recommendation: that the executive committee receive the follow up report with appreciation.
The recommendation was adopted by consensus.

9.3.7. Proposal for Programmatic Restructure: Ecumenical Continuing Formation (EF3)

Recommendation: that the executive committee

1. receive the proposal with appreciation for the work done;
2. approve the proposal for programmatic restructuring.

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.8. Just Community of Women and Men – Plans for 2019-2021

Recommendation: that the executive committee

1. approve the plans, excluding the proposed plans in the documents on Plan for Work on Just Communities of Women the Draft WCC Gender Justice Policy;
2. discuss coherence with other initiatives, such as gender justice, human sexuality and the F&O study on moral discernment (see also at the bottom of the document Draft WCC Gender Justice Policy).

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.9. Proposal for change of name for the Gender Advisory Group and new Terms of Reference for a Reference Group of the Just Community of Women and Men 2019-2021

Recommendation: that the executive committee

- express thanks to the Gender Advisory Group for its work;
- reject the proposal of change of name and new terms of reference.

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.10. Draft WCC Gender Justice Policy

Recommendation: that the executive committee

1. ask the general secretary to revise this document and to add an introductory section, making it clear that this is an internal document for WCC staff, governing bodies, commissions and reference groups; the introduction should clarify that this is not a document on ecclesiology;
2. delete the sentences on percentages because WCC has clear rules on fair and adequate representation;
3. replace on page 9 the title 'use of sexist language' by 'use of inclusive language';
4. reformulate the paragraph on the Bible translation (page 8) as follows:

   'The New Revised Standard Version that uses inclusive language is the house style Bible translation of the World Council of Churches and is mainly used in scriptural references in WCC documents.';
5. reject the proposal to develop a companion, because the document is an internal document;
6. reformulate the first paragraph of the glossary without mentioning specific references.

The programme sub-committee discussed the documents *Plan for Work on Just Communities of Women, Gender Advisory Group* and the *Draft WCC Gender Justice Policy* and observed that there is programmatic overlap between the work these documents refer to and some other initiatives, e.g. human sexuality and the F&O study on moral discernment. The committee discussed how to organize and bring coherence to the work for the period after the next assembly.

The programme sub-committee recommends the executive committee ask the general secretary to come with a proposal in November 2019, based on the transversal Just Community of Women and Men, for a coherent way of working on Just Community of Women and Men, gender justice, human sexuality, moral discernment, also considering that budget is needed.
The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.11. Process for the Ecumenical Conversations on Human Sexuality on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and Study Documents

Recommendation: that the executive committee

- receive the update of the process with appreciation;
- ask the general secretary to prepare a communication strategic plan, including a pastoral letter, to go together with the resource document.

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.12. Ecumenical Diakonia Study Document Process Update and Ecumenical Diakonia Study Document Revised with track changes

Recommendation: that the executive committee

a. receive the update;
b. approve the intended direction.

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.13. Activities on Racism

Recommendation: that the executive committee

a. ask the general secretary to present a concept paper in November 2019 on the issue of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and ethnicity, based on the learnings of WCC work on racism, that will lead to another programmatic initiative;
b. underline the necessity of activities during the WCC 11th Assembly addressing this capital issue.

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.14. Report of the Joint Meeting of the Reference Group on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and Theological Study Group

Recommendation: that the executive committee

- receive the report with appreciation;
- reaffirm the spirituality of the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (celebrating the gifts, visiting the wounds and transforming injustices);
- highlight the pilgrim team visits to be further developed as a methodology of mutual support and pastoral presence in volatile situations;
- reaffirm youth engagement in the ecumenical movement and young people's participation in every pilgrim team visit;
- lift up the threat of nuclear weapons and nuclear testing, e.g. in Asia and the Pacific;
- be aware that in some contexts, such as the Pacific, the word voyage may be understood as pilgrimage;
- underline the need and opportunity for a strong, inspiring and encouraging preparation and cooperation with local churches and their ecumenical partners on pilgrim team visits;
- underline the need for alignment of WCC strategic plans and pilgrim team visits;
- affirm as a harvest of pilgrim team visits four key themes as important and interrelated issues for the future:
  - truth and trauma
  - land and displacement
  - gender justice
  - racial justice;
- welcome the offer of the Reference Group on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and the Theological Study Group to contribute to WCC 11th Assembly, especially in the reconciliation plenary but marks that the material for the WCC 11th Assembly, should be ready in November 2020.

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.15. Report of the Joint Meeting of WCC-EHAIA International Reference Group and WCC-EAA HIV Strategy Group

Recommendation: that the executive committee

a. receive the report with appreciation;
b. underline the important work done by WCC-EHAIA and by WCC-EAA;
c. ask the general secretary to reconfigure the cooperation between WCC-EHAIA and WCC-EAA and to work in the direction of coherence of the whole field of health and healing and close cooperation to be mostly effective, and to report on this to the executive committee in November 2019.

The recommendations were was adopted by consensus.

9.3.16. Summary Report of the 56th Meeting of the Commission on International Affairs

Recommendation: that the executive committee

a. receive the report with appreciation;
b. underline the importance of pilgrim team visits and a follow-up of these pilgrim team visits.

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

9.3.17. Update on the Implementation of the WCC Strategic Plan 2018-2021 Indicators

Recommendation: that the executive committee

- receive the report with appreciation for the way strategic and programmatic objectives are related to each other, now having an objective-based way of presenting plans, with quantitative indicators that enable us to show aggregated results;
- encourage the general secretary to go on with the baseline approach for projects and programmes in order to facilitate the measurement of impact;
- request the general secretary to continue the staff orientation and professional development of the staff;
- underline the needs of a good digital infrastructure for reporting and monitoring in an effective and coherent way.

9.3.18. Programmatic Perspectives on assembly preparation

The programme sub-committee also discussed the whole issue of the assembly preparation.

Recommendation: that the executive committee

- Lift up
    - Harvest of the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace
    - Just Community of Women and Men (by a higher representation and more visible representation of women, e.g. the sermon in the opening ceremony be given by a woman)
    - Eco-Justice and Economic Justice
    - Racial Justice
    - Health and Healing
    - Children Rights
    - Harvest of the Arusha Conference
    - Peace and Violence (especially the threat of nuclear weapons and testing)
    - Unity and Reconciliation;
- Empower women and youth to contribute to the assembly in equal way, e.g. by online courses
- Take care of intersection of the pre-assemblies and the assembly.

The recommendations were adopted by consensus.

10. Closed session of the executive committee

10.1. WCC Staff Directory

The general secretary and the minute taker were present for the initial section of the closed session.

The general secretary introduced the current photo directory of the WCC staff, which had been distributed to the members of the executive committee for their information. They were reminded that according to Swiss privacy laws, this may not be circulated as a public document in order to protect the privacy of the staff members.

10.2. Staff Changes

Report on the Staff Changes was then distributed to the members. The general secretary offered further background to some of the changes. He noted that overall this is a fairly usual turnover pattern.

The confidential staffing report was received without changes.

All copies of this confidential report were returned to the general secretary. Then the general secretary and the minute taker left the meeting.

10.3. Extension of the mandate of the General Secretary

The executive committee expressed its appreciation for the general secretary.

By unanimous consensus the executive committee asked the general secretary to continue in his office at least until the next central committee in March 2020, and if he is available, to extend until the next general secretary takes office.

Following the closed session, the general secretary was invited into the meeting room and informed of this decision. He expressed his appreciation to the executive committee and responded that he is prepared to serve until the March 2020 central committee. He looks forward to reporting to the central committee that gave him his mandate. He agreed to consider the proposal to extend his role further. He would inform the executive committee of his decision at its next meeting in November 2019. The executive committee agreed to this timetable.

11. Closing Actions

11.1. Evaluation and Assessment of the Meeting

The moderator, Dr Agnes Abuom, reminded participants of the comment in the report of the sub-committee on personnel, staffing and nominations that only 16 participants had contributed evaluations of the last executive committee meeting in Uppsala. She urged all participants to pull out the evaluation sheet in their packet and take a few minutes right now to complete the form. Participants did so, returning them as they left the room at the close of the meeting.

11.2. Closing remarks

Dr Abuom thanked committee members for taking the time to thoughtfully complete their evaluations.

She proceeded to express her deep gratitude to everyone – committee members, staff and consultants – for their serious and constructive efforts through the entire week of this meeting. She then officially closed the meeting of the executive committee.

Appendix I: Participants List

Leadership	Dr Agnes Abuom, Moderator
	H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima, Vice-Moderator
	Bishop Dr Mary Ann Swenson, Vice-Moderator
	Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary
Members	Rev. Dr Festus Asana
	H.E. Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian
	Rev. Dr Hyun Ju Bae
	Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber
	Ms Emily Evans
	Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul
	Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev
	Rev. Karl Johnson (substitute)
	Rev. Martina Viktorie Kopecká
	H.E. Metropolitan Serafim Kykotis
	Rev. Dr Manhong Lin
	Rev. Taaroanui Maraea
	H.E. Metropolitan Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste
	H.E. Metropolitan Zachariah Mar Nicholovos
	Bishop Simo Peura
	Bishop Dr Staccato Powell (substitute)
	Rev. Karin van den Broeke
	Rev. Dr Angelique Walker-Smith (substitute)
Apologies	Rev. Cora Luisa Antonio Matamoros
	H.G. Bishop Dr Abune Aregawi
	Rev. Dr Samson Olasupo Adeniyi Ayokunle
	Rev. Dr Paul Gardner
	Bishop Rex R. B. Reyes, Jr.
	Bishop John F. White

Advisers

Mr Martin Dunning, Implenia
Rev. Sören Lenz , Conference of European Churches
Ms Camille Sainte-Rose, Implenia
Mr Myles Stott, Audit Committee
Archbishop Emeritus Dr Anders Wejryd, Steering Committee

Minute-Writer

Rev. Sarah Stephens

Staff Leadership Group

Ms Elaine Dykes	Director, Finance
Ms Marianne Ejdersten	Director, Communication
Prof. Dr Isabel Phiri	Deputy General Secretary
Fr Prof. Dr Ioan Sauca	Deputy General Secretary

Staff

Ms Diana Chabloz	Assistant to the General Secretary
Mr Douglas Chial	Manager, Income Monitoring and Development and PMER
Ms Catherine Christ-Taha	Coordinator, Conference Office
Ms Beate Fagerli	Coordinator, 11th Assembly
Mr Mark Johnson	Manager, Finance
Mr Peter Prove	Director, Commission of the Churches on International Affairs

Appendix II: Membership of Sub-Committees

Programme

Dr Agnes Abuom
Rev. Dr Hyun Ju Bae
Bishop Petra Bosse-Huber (mod)
Rev. Martina Viktorie Kopecká
HE Metr. Serafim Kykotis
Rev. Karin van den Broeke (rap)
Rev. Angelique Walker-Smith

Adviser:
Rev. Sören Lenz, Conference of European Churches

Finance

HE Archbishop Dr Vicken Aykazian (mod)
Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul
Archpriest Mikhail Goundiaev
Rev. Karl Johnson
Rev. Taaroanui Maraea
Bishop Mary Ann Swenson

Advisers:
Mr Michael Dunning, Implenia
Ms Camille Sainte-Rose, Implenia
Mr Myles Stott, Audit Committee
Archbishop Emeritus Dr Anders Wejryd, Steering Committee

Staffing, Personnel and Nominations

Rev. Dr Festus Ambe Asana
Ms Emily Evans
HE Metr. Prof. Dr Gennadios of Sassima (mod)
Rev. Dr Manhong Lin
HE Metr. Zachariah Mar Nicholovos
HE Metr. Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste
Bishop Dr Staccato Powell
Bishop Simo Peura (rap)
Rev. Dr Olav Fykse Tveit

Advisers:
Rev. Dr Elisabeth Krause-Vilmar, Assembly Worship Planning Committee
Rev. Sabine Udodesku, Assembly Worship Planning Committee

Public Issues

Dr Agnes Abuom
Rev. Dr Festus Ambe Asana
Rev. Dr Hyun Ju Bae
Mrs Anne Glynn-Mackoul
Rev. Taaroanui Maraea
HE Metr. Prof. Dr Nifon of Targoviste (mod)
Rev. Karin van den Broeke
Rev. Angelique Walker-Smith

Appendix III: Actions Taken during the Meeting

2.4 Approval of Agenda – approved by consensus.

2.5 Approval of Minutes – approved by consensus.

2.6 Approval of Sub-Committees (Membership) – approved by consensus with the two provisions noted.

4.3.1 Keeping the Faith for an End to AIDS – adopted by consensus.

4.3.2 On the Global Biodiversity Crisis and the Urgent Need for Structural Chang – adopted by consensus.

4.3.3 Concern and Solidarity for West Papua – adopted by consensus.

4.3.4 On Attacks and Persecution of Christian Communities in Asia – adopted by consensus.

4.3.5 On Ecumenical Accompaniment for a Just Peace in Palestine and Israel – adopted by consensus.

4.3.6 Call for De-escalation of Tensions Between the USA and Iran – adopted by consensus.

4.3.7 Commemorating the 2019 Quad-Centennial of the Forced Transatlantic Voyage of Enslaved African Peoples from Angola to Jamestown, Virginia (USA) – adopted by consensus.

4.4 ACT Alliance 3rd General Assembly Public Statements Analysis
That WCC engage in discussion with ACT Alliance on whether there is, or should be, mutual accountability between WCC and ACT Alliance, to build trust and coherence, despite the fact that each organization has its own governing bodies, strategic plans and policies. This should be an agenda item for a future joint WCC-ACT Alliance governing body meeting. Adopted by consensus

5.6.2 Financial Report 2018

a. Financial Report 2018 – approved by consensus; and
b. Plan to publish the next financial report in electronic form only, subject to any special requirements of funding partners – approved by consensus.

5.6.3 Detailed report of the auditors

a. Request that the audit committee submit any recommendation concerning amendments to the Supplement to the Rules to the Constitution and Rules Working Group by 12 July 2019, for due consideration at its July meeting;
b. Appoint H.E. Metropolitan Serafim Kykotis as a member of the leadership of the finance sub-committee; and
c. Delegate to the leadership of the finance sub-committee the authority to appoint the auditor for 2019, and to mandate the auditor for the period 2019-2023, subject to annual appointment, on the recommendation of the audit committee.

Approved by consensus.

5.6.4 Draft assembly framework budget

a. Require that the assembly budget be presented in November 2019, with explanatory notes on the data, including matters raised above; and
b. Encourages member churches to respond to the appeal for pledges of contributions to the

assembly fund, and if possible, by mid-October, to facilitate budget preparation.
Approved by consensus.

5.6.5 Income development – encourage the general secretary explore the feasibility of the suggestions presented in the sub-committee report. Approved by consensus.

5.6.6 Monitoring financial indicators, 2018-2021 – require that annual appraisals for staff be conducted as a matter of routine best practice, and that a report be brought on progress at each meeting. Approved by consensus.

5.6.7 Capital expenditure – approve the revised budget for capital expenditure 2019 at CHF 714,000. Approved by consensus.

5.6.8 General reserves

a. Delegate to the leadership of the finance sub-committee the authority to approve the level of loan reimbursement which may be achieved in September 2019, if proceeds from Montreal have been received;
b. Approve in principle, and to assist in planning for 2020, that a transfer will be made in 2019 to the general reserves from the restricted fund for land, property and equipment, depending on the level of proceeds received from the Montreal transaction, in order to provide for a transfer from the general reserves of CHF 300,000 to the programme fund for central committee; and
c. Affirm the principle that the general reserves should remain close to, or at, the CHF 7 million target at the end of 2019, after any required transfers.

Approved by consensus.

5.6.9 Designated fund for the building project

a. Approve in principle that a transfer will be made from general reserves to the designated fund for the building project in 2019; and
b. Require that the recommendation concerning the value of the transfer be brought for decision at the next meeting.

Approved by consensus.

5.6.11 Decision of the leadership of central committee concerning the sale of land and the project Montreal – That for good order, the four members of the leadership of the central committee confirm at this meeting that they have decided upon the sale of the Montreal land and project, based on the recommendation of the steering committee of 19 March 2019, and the decision of executive committee of 29 April 2019, and subject to the conditions described in the report of the steering committee of 19 March 2019. Approved by consensus.

5.6.12 Signing authorities for the sales contracts for Montreal

a. The decision of the central committee in 2016 regarding signing authority not restrict commencement of the contracting for sale by the WCC in 2019 and 2020 of the individual transactions related to the Montreal building;
b. Sales contracts and related land registry deeds for transactions of units in the Montreal building be signed on behalf of the WCC by the signatories currently registered at the Geneva registry of commerce which include members of both the leadership of the central committee and of the staff leadership group, under joint authority as specified in that register, and provided that at least one of those signatories is French speaking;
c. In the event that the purchaser is a member of the WCC staff or family member of WCC staff, the

general secretary will consult in advance with the WCC lawyer and with the leadership of the central committee on procedures, to ensure an arms-length transaction, and avoid conflicts of interest, or the appearance of impropriety, and the leadership of central committee will then decide on those procedures, including the WCC signatories required for any such transaction; and

d. This decision be reported to central committee.

Approved by consensus

6. Ecumenical Trust (under US law) – amend item 7 on Actions without Meetings and add a new item 8 on Conference Calls and Video Participation to the By-laws of the Ecumenical Trust, as stated in Document 37. Approved by consensus.

7.2.2 Report of the General Secretary – invite moderators of the commissions to participate in executive committee meetings on a rotational basis, reporting to and discussing the work of the commissions with the executive committee, starting in November 2019. Approved by consensus.

7.2.3 Assembly

a. approve the recommendations of the reports
   - WCC 11th Assembly Preparations
   - Report of the Assembly Planning Committee
   - Proposed Assembly Communication Strategy
b. ask the general secretary to develop a mandate and composition of a small representative group including younger theologians on the assembly theme, to present to the leadership of the central committee at their meeting in September; the group would be set up to
   - prepare the theological reflections on the theme that can serve all the preparations of the assembly to be presented to the March 2020 central committee meeting
   - draft a statement with a working title of "Christ's Love for Unity and Reconciliation" to be presented to the executive committee in May 2021 in preparation for the assembly
c. that an update on the staff reflections paper on the assembly theme be brought back to the executive committee at its meeting in November 2019
d. that the following papers be forwarded to the meeting of the assembly worship planning committee in July to facilitate their work
   - Ecumenical Review, issue 71.1-2
   - H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios' lecture, Cyprus, January 2019
   - Fr. Ioan Sauca paper on Orthodox reflections on the Assembly theme at the meeting of CWME
   - A further revised draft theme reflection paper by staff
   - General secretary's lecture in Los Angeles, April 2019
e. that the central committee in March 2020 encourage the churches to coordinate the process of elections in due time before the assembly
f. That the general secretary ask two members of the central committee, one from the executive committee, to participate in a meeting organized by the communication department in July 2019 on further developing the report From Busan to Karlsruhe
g. That the assembly office presents an updated cohesive report on assembly preparations from various committees and meetings to the executive committee meeting in November 2019.

Approved by consensus.

7.2.4 Permanent Committee on Consensus and Collaboration

a. approve all the recommendations in the report
b. strongly recommend that a consensus consultant be appointed for next executive and central committee meetings in particular, to be chosen by the leadership of the central committee

c. a proposal for a mandate for the consensus consultant be presented for approval to the executive committee in November 2019.

Approved by consensus.

7.2.5 Constitution and Rules Working Group – ask the working group to continue in their work and present a report to the next meeting of the executive committee in November 2019. Approved by consensus.

7.2.7 Central Committee Meeting 2020 Preparations and Agenda – recommends that preparations should continue based on the discussions and advice from the executive committee and that a further report on the work done be presented to the next meeting of the executive committee in November 2019. Approved by consensus.

7.2.8 Dates and Venues of Future Governing Bodies - approved by consensus.

2019		
Executive Committee	20-26 November	Bossey, Switzerland
2020		
CC Leadership	January	Geneva, Switzerland
Executive Committee	16-17 March	Geneva, Switzerland
Central Committee	18-24 March	Geneva, Switzerland
CC Leadership	August	Geneva, Switzerland
Executive Committee	13-18 November	Tbd
2021		
CC Leadership	Jan/Feb	Geneva, Switzerland
Executive Committee	19-25 May	Bossey, Switzerland
Executive Committee	7 September	Karlsruhe, Germany
Assembly	8-16 September	Karlsruhe, Germany

7.2.9 Global Christian Forum – affirm the revised version of the Memorandum of Understanding between the WCC and the Global Christian Forum (new paragraph 9) and approve its signature by the general secretary. Approved by consensus.

7.2.11 Membership matters

a. recommend to the central committee to discontinue the membership of the Church of Jesus Christ on Earth by His Special Envoy Simon Kimbangu (Kimbanguist church) as a member church of the WCC;
b. require the general secretary in the next report on membership matters to the executive committee, to include information on any church that has withdrawn its membership, to forward to the central committee;
c. taking into consideration the report of the visit to the First African Church Mission and the recommendations of the PCCC, recommend to the central committee that the First Africa Church Mission (Nigeria) be admitted into the WCC fellowship, according to Rule 1.5, for the specified interim period of participation in the work of the WCC and for interaction with the local fellowship of WCC member churches, towards acceptance as a member church

Approved by consensus.

7.2.12 Nominations

a. approve the recommendations of the reports

- WCC 11th Assembly Preparations
- Report of the Assembly Planning Committee
- Proposed Assembly Communication Strategy

b. ask the general secretary to develop a mandate and composition of a small representative group including younger theologians on the assembly theme, to present to the leadership of the central committee at their meeting in September; the group would be set up to
    - prepare the theological reflections on the theme that can serve all the preparations of the assembly to be presented to the March 2020 central committee meeting
    - draft a statement with a working title of "Christ's Love for Unity and Reconciliation" to be presented to the executive committee in May 2021 in preparation for the assembly

c. that an update on the staff reflections paper on the assembly theme be brought back to the executive committee at its meeting in November 2019

d. that the following papers be forwarded to the meeting of the assembly worship planning committee in July to facilitate their work
    - Ecumenical Review, issue 71.1-2
    - H.E. Metropolitan Gennadios' lecture, Cyprus, January 2019
    - Fr. Ioan Sauca paper on Orthodox reflections on the Assembly theme at the meeting of CWME
    - A further revised draft theme reflection paper by staff
    - General secretary's lecture in Los Angeles, April 2019

e. that the central committee in March 2020 encourage the churches to coordinate the process of elections in due time before the assembly

f. That the general secretary ask two members of the central committee, one from the executive committee, to participate in a meeting organized by the communication department in July 2019 on further developing the report *From Busan to Karlsruhe*

g. That the assembly office presents an updated cohesive report on assembly preparations from various committees and meetings to the executive committee meeting in November 2019.

Approved by consensus.

7.2.13 Ecumenical Trust Amendment to Bylaws – accept the amendments to the Ecumenical Trust Bylaws. Approved by consensus.

9.3.2 Report of the general secretary

a. receive the report with appreciation for the work done by the general secretary and his staff;

b. suggest the general secretary to mention for remembrance in the future the names of staff that passed away;

c. ask the general secretary to continue the preparations for the WCC 11th Assembly with special attention for
    - harvesting from the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace
    - harvesting from World Conference on Mission and Evangelism in Arusha
    - the overcoming of racism as an issue that continues to be a main issue

d. the churches' commitment to children

e. ask the general secretary to prepare a proposal for programmatic work on racial justice

Approved by consensus.

9.3.3 WCC Communication Update

a. receive the report with great appreciation;

b. affirm the importance of the communications department in conveying the internal and external work of the World Council of Churches;
c. encourage member churches to share their stories with communication staff, so that the fellowship of churches can benefit.

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.4 Report on the WCC and ACT Alliance Joint Day on Ecumenical Diakonia and Sustainable Development, 1 November 2018

a. receive the report with appreciation;
b. monitor how programmatic cooperation is strengthened.

Adopted by consensus.

Programme Reports 2018 Narrative and Summary

a. receive the reports and express gratitude for the work done by the staff;
b. ask the general secretary to analyse and review how the effectiveness of the transversals can be strengthened, how the integrated approach for the programmatic work can be measured for impact and how the spiritual dimension of the work of the World Council of Churches can become more visible;
c. reaffirm youth engagement in the ecumenical movement;
d. ask the general secretary to make plans for new forms of ecumenical formation, internship and stewardship, especially for international youth from the global south.

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.7 Proposal for Programmatic Restructure: Ecumenical Continuing Formation (EF3)

a. receive the proposal with appreciation for the work done;
b. approve the proposal for programmatic restructuring.

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.8 Just Community of Women and Men – Plans for 2019-2021

a. approve the plans, excluding the proposed plans in the documents on *Plan for Work on Just Communities of Women* the *Draft WCC Gender Justice Policy*;
b. discuss coherence with other initiatives, such as gender justice, human sexuality and the F&O study on moral discernment (see also at the bottom of the document *Draft WCC Gender Justice Policy*).

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.9 Proposal for change of name for the Gender Advisory Group and new Terms of Reference for a Reference Group of the Just Community of Women and Men 2019-2021

- reject the proposal of change of name and new terms of reference.

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.10 Draft WCC Gender Justice Policy

a. ask the general secretary to revise this document and to add an introductory section, making it clear that this is an internal document for WCC staff, governing bodies, commissions and reference groups; the introduction should clarify that this is not a document on ecclesiology;
b. delete the sentences on percentages because WCC has clear rules on fair and adequate representation;
c. replace on page 9 the title ‘use of sexist language’ by ‘use of inclusive language’;

d. reformulate the paragraph on the Bible translation (page 8) as follows:

> 'The New Revised Standard Version that uses inclusive language is the house style Bible translation of the World Council of Churches and is mainly used in scriptural references in WCC documents.';

e. reject the proposal to develop a companion, because the document is an internal document;
f. reformulate the first paragraph of the glossary without mentioning specific references.
g. ask the general secretary to come with a proposal in November 2019, based on the transversal Just Community of Women and Men, for a coherent way of working on Just Community of Women and Men, gender justice, human sexuality, moral discernment, also considering that budget is needed.

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.11 Process for the Ecumenical Conversations on Human Sexuality on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and Study Documents

- ask the general secretary to prepare a communication strategic plan, including a pastoral letter, to go together with the resource document.

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.12 Ecumenical Diakonia Study Document Process Update and Ecumenical Diakonia Study Document Revised with track changes

a. receive the update;
b. approve the intended direction.

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.13 Activities on Racism

a. ask the general secretary to present a concept paper in November 2019 on the issue of racism, discrimination, xenophobia and ethnicity, based on the learnings of WCC work on racism, that will lead to another programmatic initiative;
b. underline the necessity of activities during the WCC 11th Assembly addressing this capital issue.

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.14 Report of the Joint Meeting of the Reference Group on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and Theological Study Group

a. receive the report with appreciation;
b. reaffirm the spirituality of the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace (celebrating the gifts, visiting the wounds and transforming injustices);
c. highlight the pilgrim team visits to be further developed as a methodology of mutual support and pastoral presence in volatile situations;
d. reaffirm youth engagement in the ecumenical movement and young people's participation in every pilgrim team visit;
e. lift up the threat of nuclear weapons and nuclear testing, e.g. in Asia and the Pacific;
f. be aware that in some contexts, such as the Pacific, the word voyage may be understood as pilgrimage;
g. underline the need and opportunity for a strong, inspiring and encouraging preparation and cooperation with local churches and their ecumenical partners on pilgrim team visits;
h. underline the need for alignment of WCC strategic plans and pilgrim team visits;
i. affirm as a harvest of pilgrim team visits four key themes as important and interrelated issues for the future:
    - truth and trauma

- land and displacement
- gender justice
- racial justice;

j. welcome the offer of the Reference Group on the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace and the Theological Study Group to contribute to WCC 11th Assembly, especially in the reconciliation plenary but marks that the material for the WCC 11th Assembly, should be ready in November 2020.

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.15 Report of the Joint Meeting of WCC-EHAIA International Reference Group and WCC-EAA HIV Strategy Group

a. receive the report with appreciation;
b. underline the important work done by WCC-EHAIA and by WCC-EAA;
c. ask the general secretary to reconfigure the cooperation between WCC-EHAIA and WCC-EAA and to work in the direction of coherence of the whole field of health and healing and close cooperation to be mostly effective, and to report on this to the executive committee in November 2019.

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.16 Summary Report of the 56th Meeting of the Commission on International Affairs

a. receive the report with appreciation;
b. underline the importance of pilgrim team visits and a follow-up of these pilgrim team visits.

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.17 Update on the Implementation of the WCC Strategic Plan 2018-2021 Indicators

a. receive the report with appreciation for the way strategic and programmatic objectives are related to each other, now having an objective-based way of presenting plans, with quantitative indicators that enable us to show aggregated results;
b. encourage the general secretary to go on with the baseline approach for projects and programmes in order to facilitate the measurement of impact;
c. request the general secretary to continue the staff orientation and professional development of the staff;
d. underline the needs of a good digital infrastructure for reporting and monitoring in an effective and coherent way.

Adopted by consensus.

9.3.18 Programmatic Perspectives on assembly preparation

a. Lift up
    - Harvest of the Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace
    - Just Community of Women and Men (by a higher representation and more visible representation of women, e.g. the sermon in the opening ceremony be given by a woman)
    - Eco-Justice and Economic Justice
    - Racial Justice
    - Health and Healing
    - Children Rights
    - Harvest of the Arusha Conference
    - Peace and Violence (especially the threat of nuclear weapons and testing)
    - Unity and Reconciliation;
b. Empower women and youth to contribute to the assembly in equal way, e.g. by online courses

c. Take care of intersection of the pre-assemblies and the assembly.

Adopted by consensus.

10.3 Extension of the mandate of the General Secretary

By unanimous consensus the executive committee asked the general secretary to continue in his office at least until the next central committee in March 2020, and if he is available, to extend until the next general secretary takes office.